

People and Events

Consular Outreach at Island Pacific Supermarket

LOS ANGELES – A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles will be conducting a Consular Outreach Program in Panorama City, California on 16 May 2009 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm at the Island Pacific Supermarket, 8340 Van Nuys Blvd., Unit A, Panorama City, CA 91402.

This outreach program is being undertaken in cooperation with Island Pacific Supermarket under Mr. Nino Lim and in coordination with Ms. Jannelle So.

The following Consular services will be rendered:

Applications for Machine Readable Passport (Cost: \$50) and returned to the applicant by mail at an additional cost of \$6.

Applications for the retention and re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship pursuant to Republic Act 9225 or Dual Citizenship Law (Cost: \$50). Oath-taking will be scheduled on the same day for qualified applicants.

Notarization of documents (Cost: \$25) will be accepted but this will be processed at the Consulate and returned to the applicant by mail at an additional cost of \$6.

Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Registration. (Gratis)

The Consulate will only accept payments in cash, postal money order or cashier's check. Personal checks will not be accepted.

Application forms and requirements can be downloaded from the Consulate's website at www.philippineconsulatela.org.

In view of the anticipated high volume of applicants and in order to ensure an orderly flow of operations, this Consular out-

reach shall be guided by the following:

All Applicants for any of the above consular services are requested to set up an appointment with the Consulate, not later than 13 May 2009, either through fax at (213) 639-0990, or through email at losangelespcg@earthlink.net.

Passport Applicants should send an advance copy of their passport application forms and data page (bearing the name and photo) of their passports to the Consulate (Attn: Island Pacific Consular Outreach) either by fax or by email. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Dual Citizenship Applicants should send an advance copy of their application forms and supporting documents to the Consulate (Attn: Island Pacific Consular Outreach). Incomplete forms will not be processed.

OAV Registrants should also send an advance copy of their application forms and supporting documents to the Consulate (Attn: Island Pacific Consular Outreach). Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Confirmed appointments of all applicants will be posted at the Consulate's website (www.philippineconsulatela.org) by 13 May 2009. Personal appearance is required for all applicants.

While walk-in applicants will also be entertained, priority will be given to those with confirmed appointments with the Consulate, as posted in the website. All walk-in applicants are advised to transact their business directly with Consulate officials and not through travel agencies. Walk-in applicants are by definition those who did not pass through travel agencies.

For general information, interested parties may wish to call the Consulate (Tel: 1-213-639-0980 | losangelespcg@earthlink.net), or Island Pacific Supermarket (Tel: 1-626-839-6361).

For the information of the public, the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the U.S. started to accept and to process applications for Machine Readable Passports (MRP) on June 2, 2008. This is in compliance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for its member states, including the Philippines, to issue MRPs not later than 1 April 2010.

Since applications received by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the US will be sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila via diplomatic pouch, it will take six weeks for a passport to be released to the applicants, from the time the application is accepted. Personal appearance for all will be required for data verification, finger-printing and signature capture. Applications by mail will no longer be accepted.

In compliance with the new photo requirements for the MRP, applicants are requested to visit the Consulate's website.

While some countries may still honor valid green Philippine passports beyond 1 April 2010 as bona fide travel documents until they expire, most countries will require travelers to hold either MRP or e-Passport for their sojourn by 2010.

Thus, all Filipinos, including those with valid green passports, are therefore encouraged to apply for their machine readable passports as early as possible. ■



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United Batangueños of Southern California Inc.

Eric C. Villafranca, Governor 2008-2010

BORN and raised in Poblacion, Ibaan, Batangas and the seventh child of Leodigario Villafranca and Josefa Caringal Villafranca who had 14 children. He grew up from humble beginnings and was a kargador sa palengke during most of his childhood and early teens.

Villafranca graduated from Ibaan Elementary School with honors and finished his secondary course at St. James Academy as third top honor of the graduating class. He was consistently recognized as Outstanding Student during his high school years. In spite of financial difficulty, he finished his college education at Far Eastern University with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Accounting. Currently, he is busy managing his pet project and investment - Villafranca Resort I-Hot Spring Resort in Pansol, Calamba, Laguna and the 10,400 sq. meter Villafranca Resort 2 in Ibaan, Batangas.

Having a soft spot for the impoverished, he established the Villafranca Foundation, a non-profit organization whose main project/objective is to help indigent families in Batangas. For the last 5 years, he accomplished the following in Batangas: chaired the yearly Christmas give-aways distribution of gifts to the poor; gave scholarship grants to public high school students; and distributed a lot of American Books and Periodicals to every *barrio* school in Ibaan and nearby towns. He firmly and strongly believes that any project will be successful by helping our less-privileged *kababayans*.

As the current Governor of the United Batangueños of Southern California, Inc., he plans to increase the current membership and expand the Scholarship Program by increasing their college stipend. He is open to all suggestions and recommendations given by the officers and members of the United Batangueños of Southern California, Inc. He emphatically pledged to UBSCI that he will provide exemplary leadership and will work very hard to keep the momentum that UBSCI has at the present time.

He aims to extend his own Villafranca Foundation, not only in Ibaan, but to every town in Batangas. Likewise, he also intends to help the province to be more environment-friendly. Villafranca's experiences, memberships, accomplishments and seminars attended are innumerable. He is the Vice President of Johnny Air Cargo, Inc., Jarex International Inc. based in Los Angeles. He has served as the Comptroller at the famous Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles and at the Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City. He has also worked as an Auditor of US Hotel Properties, Inc. in Century City in Los Angeles.

The United Batangueños of Southern California, Inc. (UB-SCD), the largest Batangueños organization in the United States, will celebrate its 21st Anniversary and Induction Coronation Ball on Saturday May 9, 6:30pm at the California Ballroom of the Sheraton Downtown Los Angeles Hotel. ■



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Saint Joseph's Academy Las Piñas 2009 grand reunion

VINCENT Baltazar, the current president of St. Joseph's Academy Alumni Association of Southern California (SJAASC), and Lucie Mayuga Ongaco, the event chairperson, cordially invite all former students of St. Joseph's Academy (Las Pinas, Philippines), to the upcoming Third SJAASC Grand Alumni Reunion that will coincide with the Labor Day weekend of 2009.

The Grand Reunion will be held on the entire day of September 5, 2009 at College Park - 3250 South Rose Avenue, Ox-

nard, CA 93033. This will be a morning-to-dusk affair; and the costume theme will be Hawaiian. The association has contracted vendors to provide food and drinks for individual purchase. There will be games and fun activities - so needless to say, family members are welcome.

Two nearby hotels are recommended:

Comfort Inn at 1001 E. Channel Islands Blvd. Oxnard, CA 93036 (about 1/2 mile from venue), Phone: (805) 487-7755, and

Best Western at 1156 S. Oxnard Blvd. 93030 (about 2 miles from venue), Phone: (805) 483-9581.

Bring your proof of stay at any hotel in Oxnard, to the reunion. We will have a drawing, and two lucky alumni will be reimbursed - thanks to the generosity of our First Lady - Mrs. Vollette Baltazar!

The following evening, Sunday Sept. 6, 2009, the reunion celebrations will continue with a Reunion Dance at SMR Dance

Studio - 10591 Mills Avenue, Montclair, CA 91763. This will be from 7pm till midnight. The theme will continue to be Hawaiian. A dinner buffet is included with the \$25 entrance ticket. Since the venue has a maximum occupancy of 150, this will be a first come-first seated basis. Tickets will be pre-sold.

The recommended hotel is: Hotel Clairemont at 840 South Indian Hill Blvd. Claremont, CA (about 1.5 miles from venue), Phone: (909) 621-4831.

It is extremely exciting to be able to re-connect and catch-up with your beloved classmates and everybody else, so start contacting your buddies, and make your vacation plans.

For more information, you may email: Vincent Baltazar res04fgu@verizon.net and/or Lucie Mayuga Ongaco Longaco@osterkampgrp.com.

Class Participation
Get together with your classmates to prepare for the Class Cheering Contest!

Yes, we will have a Cheering Contest. So, come up with your best cheers and choreography - SIS-BOOM-BAH! Praise your Class, Praise SJA. Design your best cheering squad outfit: pom-poms, bull horns...the works! Practice your high kicks, and SCREAM! This will be FUN!

During the Reunion, we will introduce and photograph each Class. You may want to have your Class T-shirts made, and wear them for this souvenir photograph. (Please include: "SJAASC 2009 Reunion".)

While the different batches are being introduced and photographed, we will set up a projector for a picture slide show (no live-video/audio). Each Class will be allotted 3 minutes, so we will include 36 of your class pictures (5-second slide). You may include old, recent, group, or individual pix. Let's get busy! Please send a zip file of your JPEG formatted pictures to Mel Rivera at: mky1mse@gmail.com. Mel will compile the pictures for the slide show, so he has to receive them by August 10, 2009. Thanks.

Class '73 will be in charge of coordinating the entertainment activities before and during the Reunion. So, if you have any suggestions, or if your class will provide a special number that you want included in the program, please contact: Lyn (De Leon) San Miguel at: lyn-sanmiguel@yahoo.com.

Needless to say, after the programs, you'll put-on your dance shoes, and do some serious Swing, Cha-Cha-Cha, Boogie, Salsa, and of course... Line-Dancing!

You may forget to bring extra socks and underwear, but DO NOT FORGET to bring your cameras! ■

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A community garage sale to benefit FAL's collection & programs

Saturday, April 18 • 8am - 4pm
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WE are accepting donations of items that are in good working condition for sale at this event. Please bring your donations to the FAL office during the hours of 1-5pm, from April 12 - 16, 2009.

Cash donations to FAL are also welcome. Please contact filamlibrary@sbcglobal.net or 213-382-0488. FAL is located at 135 N. Park View St., Los Angeles 90026.

Founded on October 13, 1985 by "Auntie Helen" Agcaoili Summers Brown, FAL is the earliest and largest Filipino library in the country with a collection of more than 6,000 titles. Along with books, the collection consists of magazines, student papers, posters, DVDs, and CDs. The various sections include children's literature, the history of Filipinos in Los Angeles, and Jose Rizal. FAL also features a permanent exhibition on its founder Auntie Helen, a variety of paintings by renowned artist Eliseo Art Silva, and Filipino books available for sale. Whether to browse or conduct research, FAL's visitors include students, teachers, writers, families, and tourists.

FAL also advances its mission with its many programs. The Children's Reading Program promotes the value of diversity to families in Greater Los Angeles through the reading of Filipino children's books. In Bus Tours of Historic Filipinotown, a guide narrates the significance of sites, events, and individuals in and around the area to present an historical overview of Filipinos in Los Angeles. Authors also introduce their Filipino works of literature with residents of Greater Los Angeles through Book Launches. Finally, FAL has a benefit gala every October to commemorate its anniversary and Filipino American History Month.

If anyone would like to give a donation online, please feel free to visit www.filipinoamericanlibrary.org. FAL is located at 135 N. Park View St., Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles, CA 90026-5215. It is open Mondays-Fridays 1:00-5:00pm and by appointment. For more information, please contact filamlibrary@sbcglobal.net or (213)382-0488. ■