People and Events

Booksigning at Authors' Night and LA Times Festival of Books

Claude Tayag

Penelope V. Flores

Dorina Lazo Gilmore

Angus Lorenzen

RANCHO PALOS VERDES – Claude Tayag, well-known painter, sculptor and furniture designer in the Philippines is flying all the way from Manila in order to speak and sign his book during the annual Authors' Night sponsored by Philippine Expressions Bookshop. Tayag is also a chef and author of Food Tour: A Culinary Journal (2005), a journey through the Philippines that explores the culinary cultures of Pampanga, Manila, Ormoc (Leyte), Davao, and the rest of the country. This book won the "Best Philippine Culinary Travel Guide Award" given by *Gourmand World Cookbook Awards*, 2007. He is also one of six chefs, all of whom have made their own mark on Filipino cuisine who wrote the book, *Kulinarya*: A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine (2008). In short, when not mixing paints or chopping garlic, he is mincing words on his keyboard, dishing out stories on food and travel. He lives in Angeles City, Pampanga where he owns a restaurant called Bale Dutung - the best *Kapampangan* restaurant. Claude was THE guy who cooked for Anthony Bourdain in his Bale Dutung home and showed him around the other gastronomic treasures of Pampanga. The visit of Bourdain was widely shown in his TV program called No Reservations and the Philippine episode was dated February 16, 2009.

Books of five other authors will also be launched during Authors Night and all of them will be at the annual LA Times Festival of Books to sign their books at various schedules at the Booth of Philippine Expressions Bookshop, No. 427 Dickson Plaza Mid, Zone D, which is the main promenade of the Festival. Festival days are on Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, UCLA Campus. Free admission except for parking. The authors are Carina Monica Montoya, Angus Lorenzen, Estrella Besinga Sybinsky, Dorina Lazo Gilmore and Penelope V. Flores. Montoya, also known as Carina Forsythe,is the author of Filipinos in Hollywood (2008) and her latest book is Los Angeles's Historic Filipinotown which was officially designated by LA City Council District 13 as one of the city's historic geographic areas on August 2, 2002. Lorenzen, at age 7, fled Japanese-occupied North China with his sister and mother, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, only to be captured in Manila and held in Santo Tomas Internment Camp (UST) for more than three years. Santo Tomas was the internment camp for foreign citizens who were caught by the war in Manila. *A Lovely Little War*: Life in a Japanese Prison Camp through the Eyes of a Child is his memoir and a wonderful addition to the list of books on the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines. Active in ex-prisoner of war activities, he was elected in 2008 as Commander of the southern California civilian chapter of the national organization that serves American Ex-POWs. He resides in Rancho Palos Verdes. Lazo-Gilmore, author of Cora Cooks Pancit, a children's book, grew up in a Filipino-Italian family kitchen where she creates healthy recipes and share stories with her mama, aunties and grandmas. She has a BA in English and Journalism and is completing an M.F.A. degree in Children's Literature at Hollins University. She is also the author of two other children's books, Children of the San Joaquin Valley and Stone Soup: A Hmong Girl's Journey to the United States. Dorina is originally from Chicago and lives with her husband and two daughters in Fresno, CA.

Besinga-Sybinsky is the author of Portents and Promises which is a collection of free verse that encourages reflection and thought. In her words, "After the devastating attack on the US on Sept 11, 2001, the magnitude of suffering compels humanity to address deeper issues about the human condition. The book is about people and places, about ideas and political themes." She has been noted for her excellence in teaching at the University of Hawaii, Windward campus, where she taught for twenty years and cited in 1978 as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America from Hawaii. Sybinsky has two children's books waiting to be published. She grew up in Cebu City but her parents'ancestral home is Guindulman, Bohol. She came to the US for graduate studies at the East West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she has lived for 26 years with her husband and two grown daughters. They now reside in Ellicott City, Maryland. Flores, co-author of *The Philippine Jeepney*: A Metaphor for Understanding the Filipino American Family has a Ph.D. in Comparative and International Education (University of Chicago) and is currently teaching at the San Francisco State University. As an author, editor, and co-author, her books include Whisper of the Bamboo: An Anthology of Phil-Am Writers and Artists, and Goodbye, Vientiane: Untold Stories of Filipinos in Operation Brotherhood in Laos, 1954-1975. A humanities scholar, she writes essays and articles on Philippine culture, and was on the Board of the California Council for the Humanities, and of the Illinois Humanities Council. An international consultant on the areas of Education, Curriculum, Research and Teacher Education with UNESCO, US AID, and the American Education Development, she was in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for an assignment. In 2005, she was Primary School Advisor to Indonesia to train replacement teachers due to the 2004 tsunami.

Authors Night is traditionally held on the eve of the LA Times Festival of Books and this year's event, as in previous years, will be held at the Philippine Consulate on Friday, April 24 from 5:30pm to 9pm. It is to celebrate the Printed and Spoken Words as well as the publication of new books by Filipinos and Filipino-Americans as well as books on the Philippines. The venue, Philippine Consulate General, is located at 3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90010. Admission is free but due to fire code requirements, only 70 guests will be accepted, and RSVP is required. For more information, call Tel (310) 514-9139 or email <linda_nietes@sbcglobal.net>. Authors Night is part of a year-long celebration to mark the 25th Anniversary of Philippine Expressions Bookshop, the bookshop dedicated to Filipino Americans in search of their roots, and is a community outreach program in collaboration with the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles. ■

2009 Philippine Independence Day celebration at HPMC

DEAR Fellow *Kababayans*,

Greetings! I hope everything is alright with you and your family.

The 2009 Philippine Independence Day Celebration at HPMC is fast coming. We are setting it, on June 6, 2009, Saturday with a Flag Raising at 9am in front of the hospital. The event will invite local Fil-Am actors/actresses and dignitaries. Filipino authentic food and novelty booths will fill-up the HPMC grounds from 10am to 3pm.

There will be a stage to hold our cultural dance/singing contests among our Skilled Nursing Facilities' partners. Audience participation of mostly Medicare seniors will be a big part of the event.

A $200 worth of grocery gift certificate will be awarded to the winner of each of the six(6) games/contests for the Medicare seniors. A $200.00 worth of grocery gift certificate will be raffled to the general audience for each of the six(6) segments of the show. A $800.00 worth of roundtrip airfare to Manila will be raffled to low-income Fil-Am medicare seniors.

In this regard, I would like to seek your assistance in any way we can make this event truly our success. Also, Please help us locate booth participants, singers, actors, musical group performers, Arnis/Martial Arts not to mention inviting all your family,friends and customers to participate in the event.

Thank you for your cooperation and please don't hesitate to call me at 818-621-2912 or email me at mostvaluablepinoy@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Errol Santos

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