

# People and Events

## UST Singers in a series of shows in SoCal

AS Philippine cultural ambassador to countries around the globe, the University of Santo Tomas Singers or the UST Singers from Manila, Philippines is scheduled to do a series of concerts in Southern California as part of its 16th International Concert Tour from May to July 2009.

The concert tour, which covers different states in the USA including Hawaii, is the group's way of promoting Filipino culture in the form of musical arts. The choir, which has represented the Philippines in various international choral com-

been invited to sing before prominent people all over the world including Luciano Pavarotti, Pope John Paul II, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain, Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya of Thailand, Philippine Presidents Diosdado Macapagal, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. During its concert tour last year, the group received an Audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, Italy and with President Juan Jose Ibarretxe of the Basque Autonomous Community in Spain.

Catch the UST Singers as they perform on June 19 (Friday, 8 pm) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (525 E 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90813), on June 20 (Saturday, 7 pm) at St. Bernard Catholic Church, (2500 W Avenue 33, Los Angeles, CA 90065), and on June 21 (Sunday, 7 pm) at St. Genevieve Catholic Church (14061 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama City, CA 91402).

The UST Singers' performances will feature guest sopranos Joan Cano and Marcialyn Lopez on June 19 and 20. Cano and Lopez are both alumni of the UST Singers and graduate of Masters in Vocal Performance from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. On June 21, the group will be joined by a group of young Filipino men who share a common love for music and ensemble singing called the Harana Men's Chorus of Los Angeles.

For more show information, please call Froilan at (310) 8013263 or email at froi12@yahoo.com. ■



petitions and festivals is consists of students and some alumni from the many faculties and colleges of UST. The singers, who share the same love and passion for music, are trained and directed by the group's conductor and founder - Prof. Fidel G. Calalang Jr.

In its 17 years of existence, the ensemble has achieved more than 45 top prizes in prestigious international choral competitions in United Kingdom, Italy, Bulgaria, France, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland. The group's accomplishments have earned them a reputation of being one of the finest mixed choirs in the Philippines.

The UST Singers, which continues to strive for choral excellence has also performed in distinguished choral festivals in Spain, Germany, Mexico, Taiwan, and France to name a few. With its wide exposures and highly noted performances, the chorale has



## PACSPA Dinner/Dance Fundraiser

THE Philippine American Society of Certified Public Accountants (PACSPA) cordially invites you to its Dinner/Dance Fundraiser on Saturday, May 30, at the Philippine Village Center 4515 Eagle Rock Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90041 starting at 6pm. Donation: \$20 per person; Attire: Dress-to-impress.

Proceeds will benefit PACSPA's scholarship and various charitable projects, including the University of the East projects. To RSVP, please call any of the following contact persons: Francine Clara (818) 482-3245 or email frc962002@yahoo.com; Anita Domingo (818)832-9592 or email agdomingo7@gmail.com. ■

## Salakot Restaurant and the Historic Filipinotown Festival

IT IS RARE to find a couple whose business acumen is only strengthened by such spiritual empowerment that they become a force to reckon with. Meet Atty. Ramon and Ester Ocampo, proprietors of the newly opened Salakot Sizzle & Grill Restaurant in Historic Filipinotown. As they sit down for this interview, it is apparent that they are passionate about their love for their mother country, the Philippines, so much so that Atty. Ocampo has signified his serious intentions to run as a Senator in the 2010 Philippine elections. In addition, they have a genuine desire to eventually turn the Salakot Restaurant as a community center/haven of sorts in Historic Filipinotown, one of the few designated as such in the USA. I asked them how they came up with the name Salakot. Interestingly enough, it turns out that the name *Salakot* has a rather unique historical background. Atty. Ocampo explained that prior to the discovery of the Philippines by the Spaniards, the first immigrants were Malaysians from Indonesia or Malaysia who, in search of new land, came across the island of Panay. It was at that time, inhabited by the original natives of the Philippines, the Negritos. They noticed that the chieftain of the said tribe was wearing a head gear or a crown, referred to as "*Salakot*". Since the Malaysians wanted to settle peacefully in the area, they placated the king by gifting him with a "*Golden Salakot*". Thus, the *Salakot* was at one time, a symbol of nobility. But with years of foreign colonization by the Spaniards, Americans and Japanese, the Filipinos somehow lost their inherent sense of self-dignity and became a nation subjected to foreign domination, relegating the

*Salakot* from a symbol of royalty to a mere peasant's hat, a symbol of servitude and mediocrity.

Atty. and Mrs. Ocampo noticed a dearth of Filipino fine dining restaurants in the Los Angeles area where Filipinos and their guests/relatives could be treated and served with traditional Filipino hospitality, dignity and respect. They hope that through Salakot Restaurant, they can showcase the best of delicious authentic Filipino cuisine in an elegant yet home-like ambiance at affordable prices. They intend to transform Salakot as "A Restaurant the Filipino Can Be Proud Of" as well as a community center for Filipino culture and arts. "Perhaps, we can inject a renewed sense of dignity and pride to the Filipino people who, for so many years, have settled for a hodge-podge of *turo-turo* restaurants in Historic Filipino Town. Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles is the only place in the USA which bears that name." This has now developed into the mission and vision of Atty. Ramon and his lovely wife, Ester Ocampo.

Their first project as stakeholders of Historic Filipinotown is to support the upcoming Historic Filipinotown Festival 2009 along

Temple Street come August 1st, 2009 through a press conference come June 8th, Monday at 6:30pm. Headliners to date are no less than Urian Awardee Actor Bernardo Bernardo, folk singer Malou Toler, the Jazzphil USA artists and the original superstar herself, Ms. Nora Aunor. The 5K Run is also one of the highlights of the day's celebration garnering over a thousand participants. A Runners' Circle, a bonafide runners' club is once again the event's promoter. Last year's full day festival attracted over 5000 attendees throughout the day.

For more information, please refer to [www.historicfilipinotown.org](http://www.historicfilipinotown.org). Sponsorship and booth opportunities are still available. This year's Festival Producer is Historic Filipinotown Neighborhood Council President Cecilia Ramos who will be working closely with the Festival Director Joselyn Geaga Rosenthal. Festival Coordinator is Metrify Consultancy [www.metrifyconsultancy.com](http://www.metrifyconsultancy.com) under the direction of Thelma Aranda Sugay. Festival Promoter is Isabella Cardenas. Queries may be emailed to [tmtsugay@aol.com](mailto:tmtsugay@aol.com). ■



Fil-Am Association of Benicia awarded scholarships to 3 outstanding high school seniors from Benicia High. Shown in photo are Michael Gallardo, Benicia Mayor Patterson, Club President Sophie Pasibe, Isabella Reyes and Brandon Asilo. The awards were presented at their annual Mother's Day Ball. ■

## Coming this Summer to the Ford Amphitheatre!

BAHAY KUBO CENTER FOR PHILIPPINE CULTURE AND ARTS

PRESENT

# THE MUSIC OF LIFE

## *Abiting Buhay*

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF MAESTRO RYAN CAYABYAB

AUGUST 8, 2009 AT 8PM, FORD AMPHITHEATRE

An evening of great music under the stars! Learn more at [fordtheatres.org](http://fordtheatres.org) & [bahay-kubo.org](http://bahay-kubo.org)

**Ford Theatres**

Just off the 101 (Hollywood) freeway across from the Hollywood Blvd and south of Universal Studios. Shows open 2 hours before starting for general admission.

tickets [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org) 323.461.3673

ABS-CIN TFC

ASIAN JOURNAL

LA 18 HD-TV

Early buyer incentive: purchase by August 3 and pay only \$45 Full price \$50 Child price \$12

Presented as part of the

Ford Theatres' 2009 Summer Season

in line with Bahay Kubo Center's mission to promote pride in and appreciation of Philippine arts & culture,

the historic outdoor amphitheatre nestled in

the Hollywood Hills provides the perfect setting to showcase the music of Philippines' top composer,

RYAN CAYABYAB,

performed by L.A.'s finest talents.

Proceeds will benefit the Learn Filipino Program of Bahay Kubo Center for Philippine Culture and Arts (BKC), a nonprofit 501(c)3 registered organization based in the San Fernando Valley.

## Do you own a house?

You might need a

# LIVING TRUST

\$150-\$200



EVANGELINE A. GIRON, MSFS, CRTP, LDA  
Legal Document Assistant, LDA#397  
Registration and bond expires 3/23/2011  
Filed in Los Angeles County

I prepare legal documents for uncontested legal issues only and do so at the specific direction of the client.

Please call:

(323)356-3803 (626)319-4115  
[www.evangelinegiron.net](http://www.evangelinegiron.net)

- UNCONTESTED DIVORCE
- WILLS
- POWER OF ATTORNEY
- AGREEMENTS
- DEED SERVICES
- LETTER WRITING
- OTHER DOCUMENTS

Office address:  
655 N. Central Ave. 17th Flr  
Glendale, CA 91203  
(at 134 Freeway)  
By appointment only

Marketing location:  
2700 Colorado Blvd. NL 1  
Los Angeles, CA 90041  
Phone: (323)356-3803 (626)319-4115  
Tue-Sun: 11AM-7PM

INCOME TAX. LEGAL DOCUMENTS. INSURANCE. NOTARY.

## EVANGELINE GIRON FINANCIAL AND LEGAL GROUP

### Atty. Pio Lansangan:

- Combined 30 years legal experience in California and other jurisdiction
- Member for 15 years, State Bar of California
- Litigation lawyer
- Aggressive representation of your legal cases.

**BANKRUPTCY  
IMMIGRATION  
FAMILY LAW**  
(DIVORCE/CHILD SUPPORT/CUSTODY/ADOPTION)  
**FOR LESS!**

## LAW OFFICES OF PIO LANSANGAN

Marketing location:  
2700 Colorado Blvd. #NL1  
Los Angeles, CA 90041  
Phone: (323)356-3803  
(626)319-4115  
Fax: (323) 254-6787

EVANGELINE A. GIRON  
Legal Assistant

Office address:  
919 1/2 E. Broadway, Ste. 203  
Glendale, CA 91205  
Phone: (818) 500-7305  
Fax: (818) 500-7315