

People and Events

New organization celebrates induction ceremony

THE Santa Maria Ilocos Sur Association Of Nevada (SMISAN) was formed over a year ago and celebrated its first biennial induction banquet at Fremont Hotel and Casino on February 28, 2009. Guests from New York to Washington came to celebrate with the members to make it a memorable occasion.

The banquet was filled with excitement and expectations while town mates gathered together for a mini reunion. Dr. Orlino Baldonado from Knoxville, Tennessee was their guest speaker and provided entertaining and encouraging speech. Once he inducted the officers of this new organization, it was followed by dancing, karaoke, and Mister Barangay competition. Mr Bert Ramales from Butir claimed the grand prize for the Mister Barangay competition. The event followed by a luncheon at the Alex and Soledad Pena residence the next day.

The purpose of SMISAN is to unite all sons and daughters of Santa Marians regardless of race, sex, age, religious belief, political fraternal and civic affiliation. They continually launch an enduring campaign to raise money for the benefit funds and provide financial assistance in the form of educational scholarship grants.

Officers and members gather on the first Saturday of each month for their monthly meeting. In fact, they will be having



Dr. Orlino and Mrs. Estrella Baldonado



(From Left to Right): Ted Dacquel Jr., Andrea Dacquel, Pering Mendoza (Advisors), Roy Daproz (Sgt. At Arms), Melchor Casino (Business Manager), Joy Pizarro (Auditor), Rosemarie Celario (PRO), Marylou Quiacusan (Corresponding Secretary), Rebecca King (Treasurer), Madelyn Banez (Recording Secretary), Margie Antonio (Vice President), Alex Pena (President)

a pot luck picnic at Desert Breeze Park (corner of Durango Drive and Spring Mountain Road) on April 4, 2009 at 11 a.m. Membership is open to all native born Santa Marians, persons who by virtue of ancestry, marriage, parentage, and

other relationship to native born Santa Marians. Anyone interested in joining SMISAN are asked to join them at the picnic, call Margie Antonio at (702)577-5593 or Alex Pena at (702) 373-9522 or send an e-mail at SMISANUSA@aol.com. ■

Mainitnons sa Amerika

MAINITNONS in the US and Canada once again will get together for the National Reunion in Dallas, Texas on July 17-18-19, 2009. This year, marks the 4th annual gathering and our 1ST as an official certified nonprofit organization. We are celebrating the family togetherness with all the exciting events on Western Friday, Glamour Saturday and Festive Sunday hosted by the Ms. A-Dallas.

Mainitnons sa Amerika is nonprofit Family Social Group of Filipinos based in the US and



Canada with an origin from Mainit, Surigao del Norte, Philippines. ■

Asian teenage violin virtuoso debuts with Las Vegas Philharmonic on April 4

ASIAN teenage violin virtuoso Shannon Lee, 16, boasts a solo concert career that many musicians twice her age would envy.

At age 11 Shannon won her first violin competition award. She made her U. S. orchestral debut at 12 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (2005) playing the fiendishly difficult Carmen Fantasy, originally written for Jascha Heifetz. At 14, she not only performed her first concerto in Europe but also cut her debut recording for Telarc International. This summer she will be among the select few attending Itzhak Perlman's famous Shelter Island Workshop in New York.

On April 4, this phenomenal prodigy and the Las Vegas Philharmonic will create musical pyrotechnics with Paganini's First Violin Concerto, Op. 6 (1817-1818). The concert begins at 8 p.m. at Artemus W. Ham Hall, UNLV.

"I heard her CD and was knocked out," exclaimed David Itkin, Music Director of the Las Vegas Philharmonic, explaining how he discovered the super-talented teen. "The Paganini First Concerto is probably the most technically complex work in our standard repertoire of violin concertos," Itkin reported. "It fits Shannon's astonishing technical gifts perfectly."

In addition to the Paganini concerto, the program will include the *Shostakovich Fifth Symphony in D Minor (1937)* and *Mozart's overture to Don Giovanni (1787)*.

"Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony* is his most popular orchestral work," Itkin said. "It's filled with brilliant orchestral fireworks, stunning lyricism, and biting political satire. It resurrected the composer's reputation with the public in the Soviet Union because of its immediate musical appeal and also because of the censors because they completely failed to understand his message. The *Don Giovanni* overture is one of Mozart's most impressive opera overtures, spanning the entire emotional range of the opera itself, from comedy to tragedy."

Shannon almost became a pianist. "She noodled on the piano at home and was always singing in preschool," her mother, Frances, said. "So I wanted to start piano lessons for her when she was four, but all the teachers said she was too young. So I enrolled her in 'kindermusic' and rhythm class. She loved it. She also watched a 5-year-old taking a private Suzuki violin lesson next door, and she announced that was what she wanted to do-and she did."

Following her debut with the Dallas Symphony, Shannon toured with the orchestra, performing the Barber Violin Concerto. The tour's guest conductor, Giancarlo Guerrero, immediately engaged her as soloist for performances of Prokofiev's D-major Concerto with his own orchestra (Eugene, OR, Symphony) in the spring of '07.

Maestro Christof Perick, who was music director of the Charlotte, NC, Symphony at that time, heard Shannon perform in Dallas and invited her to North Carolina to play the Sibelius Concerto. In November '07, Shannon, then 14, made her European debut with Maestro Perick, who had become principal director of the Nürnberg Philharmonic, again performing the Sibelius work. That same year, Shannon cut her debut recording for Telarc International. Her recent and upcoming engagements include the Nashville Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Waco Symphony, Lewisville Lake Symphony, Arkansas Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, and Phoenix Symphony.

Shannon is a senior at Spring Creek Academy, Plano, TX, a school for gifted young artists and athletes, including Nastia Liukin, 2008 all-around women's gymnastics' champion at the Beijing Olym-

pics. "It's very interesting and inspiring," Shannon said. "Everyone is passionate about something and has his or her areas of expertise. Since the school schedule is half-day, I have a lot of flexibility to organize my time between practicing, lessons, homework, relaxing. I like going on the computer, spending time with friends, reading, and swimming."



Shannon Lee

An avid chamber musician, Shannon has participated in music institutes and seminars in Dallas, New York, and Cleveland as well as the Heifetz International Music Institute in New Hampshire and the Great Wall International Music Academy in Beijing. What it was like studying in China? "Studying in Beijing was a very eye-opening experience," Shannon commented. "My violin teacher from Dallas also went and took some other students along, so there were some familiar faces. The highlights of the camp were probably performing with the orchestra downtown in the Beijing Concert Hall, watching master classes, playing for a professor from the Beijing Conservatory, and meeting other students there."

"I barely knew any Chinese when I got there, but over time I slowly learned a little. We lived in a hotel in a walled-off community complex, far from downtown, but the scenery inside was beautiful. There were golf courses and lily ponds, and we could go boating and travel by golf-cart."

One of Shannon's most unique opportunities was playing privately for the great Itzhak Perlman. Was she nervous? "A little," she replied, "but while I was playing, the nervousness went away. He was really easygoing and sang the accompaniment in the tutti (full orchestra) parts."

Does Shannon have a favorite concerto? "I'm always changing my mind," she admitted, "but right now probably the Korngold Concerto is my favorite. I just started working on it recently. I also like the

Paganini Concerto. Last fall I had the opportunity to play this piece with the Arkansas Symphony with Mr. Itkin conducting because the soloist who was scheduled became ill. I really enjoyed that and am looking forward to performing it with the Las Vegas Philharmonic."

What are Shannon's future study plans after graduating in June? "I'm not sure yet, but one of the choices I'm hoping for is the Harvard-New England Conservatory joint program," she answered.

April 4 concert tickets are available online at www.lvphil.com, by phoning the Ham Hall UNLV box office at 895-ARTS (2787), and also at the Box Office. Regular prices are: \$75, \$50, \$35, and \$25. Prices for seniors (over 62), military, and students (18 and under), all requiring ID, are discounted 10%. Student rush tickets are available one hour prior to performance at 50% off regular prices. ID is also required. ■

Dinner to Honor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

THE Asian-American Group of Las Vegas will hold cocktails and dinner to honor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Special guests include NV Atty. General Catherine Cortez, Las Vegas Commissioner Larry Brown, Las Vegas FBI Special Agent Steve Martinez, and Clark County Chief Health Officer Dr. Lawrence Sands.


The community event will be on Saturday, April 11th, 2009 at the Treasure Island Resort. It is hosted by the Asian American Group, Asian American Coalition of Las Vegas as well as the National Federation of Filipino American Associations of Las Vegas. Interested parties can call Mike Vaswani at 278-3604 for more information. Attendees are encouraged to come in their national or traditional attires. ■



For its 2nd annual fund-raising Queen Lion Pageant, the Las Vegas Philippine-Americans Lions Club will donate proceeds to the Sigt First Foundation, Gawad Kalinga and other charities. Show here is Queen Lion 2009 Maritess Guerrero (seated) with 2nd princesses Marilyn Ante (left) and Beverly Elpidio (right), and their escorts.



Newly-crowned Lions Queen 2009 Maritess Guerrero promises to "enhance the mission" of the Las Vegas Philippine-Americans Lions Club. Its mission is to provide community projects and services to the Filipino-American communities in Las Vegas




International Admission Office: 12447 Lewis St. Suite 203
Garden Grove, Ca. 92840
Main Campus Address : 40 Quezon Avenue Quezon City Philippines 1113
Tel No. : (632) 742-4050/711-3406

**(714) 2705038/
(909) 8953368/ (714) 6210800**

- Ideal for second coursers
- BSN Program is offered through New England College
- Highly structured didactic and clinical instructions sessions using CHED approved course syllabus and instructions outline.
- This is a Philippine – based BSN program dully accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
- Standard and Structured clinical Related Learning Experience


"Building Dreams, one student at a time"
Visit us online at www.nightingaleinternational.com



Binalonan Association of Southern California

invites you to the

2009 Induction Ceremony of Officers Dinner/Dance



Olympic Collection
11301 Olympic Boulevard
West Los Angeles, CA 90064

April 18, 2009
6:00 pm
\$50 per person
Semi-formal

Reservations and payments must be completed by April 4, 2009.

For more information, please call
Amelia Arichea at (818) 348-5899
Ludy Ganzon at (818) 994-0561
Mila Tadina at (818) 635-2554