

People and Events

RE-UNION

Filipino-American Associations in America

Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you Re:Union, Filipino American Associations in America -- your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.

The PhilAm Association of Rochester, Minnesota

An independent, socio-civic, non-profit organization dedicated to the presentation and promotion of inherent Filipino cultural values, heritage, and traditions to the community of Rochester, Minnesota. The Phil-Am Association dates all the way back to the 1960s. Their original name was the Knightengales.

Objectives

To promote a deeper knowledge and understanding of our cultural values among organization members and the Rochester community.

To develop mutual respect and peaceful relationship among members of the organization and the diverse population of the Rochester community.

To provide emotional, spiritual, and physical support to the members of the organization in time of need

To actively participate in civic, educational and socio-cultural activities in the Rochester community

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President : James McNeil
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Upcoming Events for 2009

- Valentines Party Feb 13. - Blue Moon Ballroom
 - Phil-Am Public Open Meeting Mar.07 - St. Mary's Cafeteria
 - Philippine Day - Minnesota Mar.22 -Landmark Center
 - World Festival Apr 10 - 11 Mayo High School
 - Festival Of Nations Apr 30 - May 03 St.Paul River Centre
 - Rochester Fest June 16 - 24
 - Summer Picnic July 18 Essex Park
 - Christmas Party Dec 19. Resurrection Church
- To contact PhilAm Association of Rochester:
E-mail: rochestermpphilam@gmail.com ■

Manila Sunset opening

Bringing all-time favorite Filipino foods to the Las Vegas valley, Manila Sunset opened its first store in this city last March 28. Known for its award-winning cuisine, the restaurant has been serving comfort food to Filipinos in the US for the past 24 years.

The Filipino food chain, which inaugurated its Las Vegas branch inside Manila Seafood on 1221 E Sahara Ave., has started serving all-time favorites like pancit malabon, goto, arroz caldo, puto bumbong, lumpiang shanghai, bibingka, and dinuguan at puto. ■



Manila Sunset located inside Manila Seafood



Ben Halilli



Guest partake of the food served during the opening



Present during the opening were (from L-R) Jor & Julie Yuson, Jazmine, Justine, & Lizbeth Santiago, Francis Reyes, Father Manny Guico, and Manila Sunset founders Lorna & Ben Halilli. AJPress Photos Robert Macabagdal

Nevada is 5th state in ID theft complaints

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress

AS IF soaring unemployment and high home foreclosure rates are not enough, Las Vegas residents have to contend with increasing threats of identity theft as well.

In its 2008 report, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) show that Nevada emerged as the state with the fifth-worst identity theft problem last year, with complaints reaching 3,275. Of this number, a hefty 2,519 were lodged in Las Vegas alone.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) sees the trend continuing given the sagging local and national economy, as well as the city's status as the top gambling destination in the country.

"With everybody getting laid off, we hear about a thousand new cases (of identity theft) each month, Lt. Robert Seby, LVMPD Financial Crimes Section supervisor told Asian Journal in a recent telephone interview.

Stealing a person's identity is a natural occurrence in hard economic times given that it allows the thief to access the victim's existing bank and credit card accounts, Mr. Seby noted.

Identity theft, also known as identity fraud or ID theft also happens when a person assumes another's identity in order to sign up for goods and services. ID theft is considered a federal crime and is one of the fastest growing felonies in the nation.

Thieves usually steal identity via the internet, when people enter personal information or make financial transactions online. ID theft can also happen outside cyber-space as well.

Recently in Las Vegas, the LVMPD removed 15 skimmers that were actively stealing identities of individuals.

A skimmer is a card-swipe

device that records the magnetic information stored in a debit or credit card. While establishments may not be aware of skimmers installed in their stores, they may also be found guilty of maintaining the skimmers themselves, Mr. Seby said.

The LVMPD's "undercover card program" aggressively seeks to solve the problem of skimming in Las Vegas. "If we hear about an establishment that skims, we send undercover detectives there right away," Mr. Seby said.

Meanwhile, the LVMPD acknowledged that Las Vegas' reputation as a tourist destination also aggravates the problem of ID theft in the city.

Gaming destinations are always a lure because of the amount of cash casinos keep on hand, Mr. Seby noted.

Using forged documents, thieves can get cash advances from casino cages trade them for chips and play at being high rollers with the stolen money, until they cash out.

Lifelock director of Public Affairs Tami Nealy, meanwhile, said Nevada being a border state could also be a top reason why identity theft is rampant in this area.

The FTC report showed that in 2008, the top five states with the worst identity theft problems are all situated in the nation's boundaries. These are Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Nevada.

"There is a problem with immigration," Ms. Nealy said in an interview. She noted that people who entered the country illegally are not allowed to work but they try to be employed by using other people's identities.

"The (identity theft) trend is going to continue," Ms. Nealy said. Citing FTC figures she said that between 2007 and 2008, ID theft

went up almost 50%, while it went up a staggering 422% the last eight years starting in 2000.

"The only way to stop it is if we get our voices together and educate the consumers," Ms. Nealy said.

This goal, she noted, is why Lifelock hosted a summit last February, along with the Nevada Attorney General's Office and FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

The conference which was held in Las Vegas is the fifth in an ongoing series to arm local and regional law enforcement officials with information about this devastating crime. Another meeting is scheduled in June.

"It is an information sharing session between Lifelock and local and federal government agencies, Ms. Nealy said. Lifelock is a private company that services its clients by alerting them of possible fraud or ID theft.

The LVMPD, meanwhile, recommends a few simple ways for citizens to safeguard their identities. These include cross-shredding materials that have personal information; leaving health cards at home; and checking credit report at least three times in one year.

"You can do anything in your power to not be a victim of identity theft," Mr. Seby said.

He also emphasized taking caution when using debit cards. "Never let your debit card out of your sight," Mr. Seby said, noting that restaurants and gasoline pumps are the most common places where identity through debit card skimming.

Mr. Seby said debit cards are specifically vulnerable because it is tied to one's checking account. "Debit is your money, credit is not your money, so you have to be careful not to let a debit card out of your sight," he said. ■

In Memoriam

Bonifacio Dizon Niño
Gentleman, Farmer, WWar II
Veteran, Civic Leader



A LONG TIME resident of Cerritos, California and very active in the Coalition of World War 11 Veterans & Community Organizations, Atty. Nino passed away on March 30 after a lingering illness (Parkinson's Disease) at the Philippine Veterans Hospital. He is survived by his spouse Silvina Estabillo-Nino, seven children and 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The children with their spouses are: Dan E. Nino & spouse: Myrna E. Nino, Amor Meo E. Nino/Teresita Pongtilan-Nino, Alex E. Nino/Annie Encarnacion-Nino, Thelma E. Nino/Chito Bringas, Ramon E. Nino/Chato Alcantara-Nino, Mila E. Nino and Urduja Mempin-Nino/Gerry Mempin. His remains lie in state at San Nicolas Catholic Church on Neptune St., Tandang Sora, Proj. 8, Quezon City. Interment will take place on April 8 (Holy Wednesday) at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City.

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