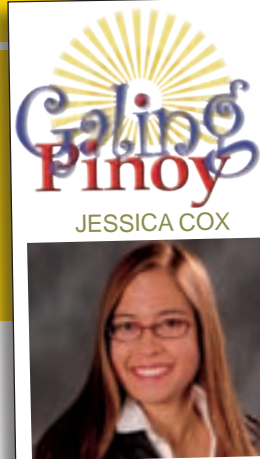


We've got you covered from Hollywood to Broadway... and Online!



# ASIAN JOURNAL™

Armless  
inspiration



www.asianjournal.com

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Volume 2—Issue 26 • 14 Pages

MARCH 20-26, 2009



## Pinoy veterans can now apply online

FILIPINO World War II veterans applying for their benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may now access the application form on-line, the US embassy announced.

Applicants can log on to the embassy website at <http://manila.usembassy.gov>.

Applications will be accepted until Feb. 16, 2010. Applications within the Philippines may also be sent through the mail with the required supporting documents to: US Department of Veterans Affairs, 1131 Roxas Blvd., 0930 Manila, Philippines.

Veterans needing assistance with their application may request an appointment with the US Department of Veterans Affairs Manila Regional Office by calling tel. 528-2500 within Metro Manila or 1800-1888-5252 toll free, or via e-mail <https://iris.va.gov>.

For information including eligibility requirements and required supporting documents for application, applicants can go to "Frequently Asked Questions" at website <http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwhs581.html>.

Embassy officials said Filipinos who served under direct control of the US military in World War II would get one-time payments of up to \$15,000 for their service under a provision of the US Senate's economic recovery bill. (Philstar.com)

# Historic Filipino-American meeting with Obama administration

Mabuhay Alliance pushes for radical changes to prevent foreclosures and encourage small business development

SOMETHING very rare happened in Washington, DC during the week of March 9—Filipino-American leaders were at the bargaining table with the Obama administration. Faith Bautista, President and CEO of Mabuhay Alliance, joined by Jose Pecho, District Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), met directly with four key Obama Administration leaders with the responsibility to solve the foreclosure crisis and encourage small business development. These Fil-Am leaders met with Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, and the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee Barney Frank.



HISTORIC MEETING. (L-R) Jose Pecho, Regional Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Faith Bautista, President and CEO, Mabuhay Alliance, (3) Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Federal Reserve, and Assemblymember Ted Lieu, 53rd District, California.

Photo courtesy of Mabuhay Alliance

The meeting with the Obama administration opens a new door for the Fil-Am community. "To me, it is a very important meeting, as they now recognized the value of the four million Filipinos here," said Bautista in a telephone interview with *Asian Journal*.

Bautista informed each of them

that virtually none of the government efforts or bank efforts to solve the foreclosure crisis were working. She urged that the government form direct partnerships with local community groups to solve the foreclosure crisis and that top officials meet with Mabuhay Alliance in California to tour areas of the state

most affected by the recession and the foreclosure crisis. As a first step, government officials have agreed to attend the press conference led by Mabuhay Alliance and the head of the Asian Pacific legislative caucus Ted Lieu in Los Angeles on April 2. They will unveil innovative methods

► PAGE 3

## DATELINE PHILIPPINES

### BSP sees remittances to remain strong in '09

REMITTANCES are seen to remain strong with the continued robust deployment of Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) amid the current global economic and financial turmoil.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters last March 13 that several banks have reported that volume of remittances is in double digits in the first two months of this year.

He said monetary officials consider this as a reason to believe that growth of remittances will be

► PAGE 3

## NY Times awards Fil-Am Teachers

by APRIL TIAMZON  
AJPress

NEW YORK—Filipino excellence is showcased not with one, but with two teachers being honored at the *The New York Times* 2009 ESOL Teacher of the Year Awards last Wednesday, March 18, held at the *New York Times* building.

From 50 nominees, a winner and three other honorees were named including Rosemarie E. Parreno—ESL continuing education teacher of Hostos

Community College; and Nestor Villamil Tebio—ESOL instructor and program manager of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, and Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee.

Now in its third year, the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) award program recognizes instructors who have consistently

► PAGE 3



NY Times ESOL Award Recipients: Ludmila Ellis, Tamara Kirson, Rosemarie E. Parreno, Nestor Villamil Tebio, Michael Hunter.

AJPress Photo by April Tiamzon

## Wowed at 'Wowowee'

by ROCHELLE C. PANGILINAN  
AJPress

JUST as morning talk shows are a staple in American culture, so are noontime variety shows in *Pinoy* culture. Filipinos are such big fans of noontime shows that they not only know the its lingo by heart, they can speak it in the same intonation and phrasing as the hosts do—delivered with high energy, and of course, as if they receive a compulsory adrenaline shot right before each show, down to the exact exclamation marks.

Case in point: 'Wag/kayong/aalis! Magbabalik. Po. Kami!!!'

Yes, Filipinos are noontime show fanatics that you can just pull aside anyone you see on the street and, chances are if you ask, they can do the *Wowowee* move with their arms with such unbelievable fervor and enthusiasm, you'd think they were on TV already. (Good luck in trying to stop them once you get them started though).

*Wowowee*, one of the noontime shows that consistently keep people glued to their TV sets, was launched in 2005 as ABS-CBN's answer to the formidable

competitor, *Eat Bulaga!*, *Wowowee* gave the other channel's show a tough competition for audience share, and *Eat Bulaga!* hosts Joey de Leon and Vic Sotto suddenly found a worthy opponent for audience attention in Willie Revillame. And with the emergence of technology, *Wowowee* was shown all over the US via The Filipino Channel (TFC) as well as other countries, making it one of the most-watched shows in the world. It is so popular that it has launched a

► PAGE 4

Filipino-American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) musical director Robert Shroder introduces Asian Journal Publications Inc.'s Balikbayan Magazine as 'Wowowee' main host Willie Revillame interviews him.  
AJPress Photo by Napoleon Laurel Jr.



You can judge THE ASIAN JOURNAL by its coverage from Hollywood to Broadway!

