

People and Events

BKCPCA-SFV re-opening

BAHAY Kubo Center for Philippine Culture & Arts of San Fernando Valley invites all families to our re-opening in 2009. This Spring, we are hosting an Open House on April 4, from 10am-12nn at our new location at 17531 Rinaldi Street, Granada Hills CA 91344 (inside the Hillcrest Christian School campus, parking is free on Shoshone Street). Learn more about our Learn Filipino Program for kids, teens and adults. The 1st session will start on April 18, 2009.

Bahay Kubo Center (BKC) is the sole Filipino center in the San Fernando Valley. It is a non-profit organization established in 2005 to promote pride

in and appreciation of Philippine history, culture, language, arts, music and heritage among Filipino and multicultural families. Started by a group of friends and alumni of the University of the Philippines, BKC aims to build more socially aware, active, caring and responsible Filipino-Americans. Everyone is encouraged to join BKC in the spirit of Bayanihan, especially the Filipino-American youth whom we nurture to become respected community service volunteers and leaders.

For more information, please contact Bahay Kubo Center (818)832-1941 or info@bahay-kubo.org. Visit www.bahay-kubo.org.

Asian Pacific community fund recognizes emerging leaders in philanthropy

LOS ANGELES—The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) will be recognizing a young generation of community leaders at the 1st Annual Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Recognition Awards on April 28, 2009 from 6pm-8pm at the Elevate Lounge, 811 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles.

This event recognizes young leaders and high school, college and young professional organizations that are making a difference in the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community through their leadership and volunteer service. APCF will be highlighting their successes in hopes of encouraging others to get involved in the Asian Pacific Islander community. Applications and nominations are being accepted until April 3, 2009.

At a time when the need for funding in our communities is as great as ever, this event addresses the importance of cultivating

the next generation of philanthropists.

APCF is a community-based, nonprofit fund that was created to fulfill a need for a unified effort to educate and encourage donors to direct their charitable giving to benefit community organizations serving the rapidly growing population of Asian Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles.

Established in 1990, APCF fills a much needed gap in the API community as the only API community-based fund of its kind in Southern California raising funds and tapping into the potential of employee workplace giving. Without the work of APCF, these Affiliate Agencies would not, on their own, be able to conduct workplace giving campaigns to raise funds.

Foundation giving to the Asian Pacific Islander community has not kept pace with the growth of API communities, according to the Asian Americans/Pacific Is-

lander in Philanthropy June 2007 *Growing Opportunities* report. A lack of support for API organizations in turn affects long-term sustainability and the voice of API communities in civic infrastructure according to the same report.

Since its founding, APCF has raised and distributed over \$1.5 million in unrestricted grants to its 29 Affiliate Agencies providing services to the API community. These grants enable APCF agencies to both launch new initiatives and strengthen current programs and services for diverse Asian Pacific Islander clients, including: disadvantaged children, youth, disabled, seniors, immigrants, refugees, battered women, and low income families.

For more information on APCF, to apply/make a nomination or to purchase tickets to this event, visit www.apcf.org or call (213) 624-6400.

50 YEARS LATER. Letran High School 1959 classmates gathered in Southern California last Mar. 21 to organize their 50 years anniversary. It will be held in Manila in November of 2009. The festivities are scheduled for 1 week - from Nov. 16 - 21. Last week's meeting was held at the residence of Steve Avevilla in West Covina, CA. The 21st of March is a memorable date - as it was exactly 50 years to the date since they marched down the halls of the Letran gymnasium to receive their diplomas. LtoR: May and Steve Avevilla, Joyce and Joey delaConcepcion, Gloria and Eddie Gil deMontes, Rose and Phil delosReyes, Alice and Nap Limson, Doris and Hermie San Luis. For details go to their class website: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/letranknights59/.



LEADERS' DIGEST

Filipinos are everywhere in America—from the East to the West coast. However, as the second largest Asian American community in America, we still have to empower ourselves to become more visible in the political mainstream. Unknown to us, fellow FilAms are making a difference across the US—as appointed and elected leaders in their respective areas. The Asian Journal Leaders' Digest aims to present to readers these leaders who have made—and continually making a difference for the Filipino American community.

Ed Balico

Mayor of Hercules California

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
AJPress



ED BALICO was first elected to the Hercules City Council for a four-year term in November 2000. He was appointed Vice Mayor in December 2001 and became Mayor in 2002. He was re-elected in November 2004 and garnered the highest votes ever in the history of the City of Hercules in that election. Because he received the most votes in the November 2004 election, in December 2006, he was appointed to serve a one-year term as Mayor. In 2008, Council Member Balico was elected for a third term and received the highest number of votes for that election year.

Council Member Balico holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and has completed numerous certifications in the fields of Project Management, Total Quality Management, and Problem Solving Process. He worked for one of the Fortune 100 companies for 20 years and left the company as a senior project manager. He currently owns a real estate and mortgage company.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Council Member Balico served as a Planning Commissioner for six years and during his tenure served as both Vice-Chair and Chair of the Commission.

Council Member Balico has been appointed to various regional agencies: Board of Director - West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Agency (Served as Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Board).

Board of Director. - WESTCAT (Served as

Vice Chair and Chairman of the Board).
Board of Director - West Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Board of Director - Contra Costa Transportation Agency (Alternate)
Board of Director - Contra Costa College Foundation
Executive Board of Director - League of California Cities, East Bay Division
Council Member Balico recently graduated from the League of California Cities Mayors and Council Member Leadership in Action, wherein there are only ten elected officials in this level.

Council Member Balico was instrumental in the formation of the Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus of the League of California Cities.

Council Member Balico has been appointed several times by the Board of Supervisors to represent Contra Costa County on the Water Transit Authority CAC.

Council Member Balico also serves on various City Council sub-committees related to:

- Business Development
- Finance
- Education
- Energy/Municipal Utility
- Public Safety
- Traffic Circulation
- Library
- Transportation & Housing
- Youth Activities

Some of his community affiliations are:

- Fil-Ams of Hercules, Board of Director
- Hercules Chinese Association, Life Time Member
- Rotary Club of Hercules, Member
- Hercules Golf Club, Founder

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