

People and Events

Westlake School for the Performing Arts' Urban Paradise 2009

Celebrate the wind as its voice, the sea - it's heart, and the land as it's whole being

FILIPINO-American Anthony Manaois, director of Te rama, the Polynesian Youth Dance Company of Westlake School for the Performing Arts in San Francisco. Anthony has lead the group to standing ovation performances in Scotland in 2007 and China in 2008, and hopes to bring the group to Tahiti this summer.

"This years 2009 *Urban Paradise* Program features dances from the Polynesian Islands of Hawaii and Tahiti. Growing up the son of a Kumu Hula, I was taught the dances of Hawaii known as the Hula. The ancient dances known as the Hula Kahiko remain to our family 'sacred' as this dance type was passed down to us from generations before. The Hula Kahiko section for this year's *Urban Paradise* will feature dances honoring the Chiefs, Kings, and Queens of Old Hawaii and will feature the entire cast of Te rama. I am excited for the group because it is the first time that we are featuring such a large cast (68 dancers)."

"The more familiar Hula style known as the Hula Auana accompanied by Guitar, Ukulele and Voice, speak of special and unique places of Hawaii, like the beautiful natural pool - Alekoki on the island of Oahu. The arm movements and words emote the beauty of a remote valley of Waialou on the island of Molokai. The dances celebrate the wind as its voice, the sea - it's heart, and the land as it's whole being. Also included is a dance that speaks of "Waianae" on the island of Oahu. It is the place where my family is from and where I was ordained as a Kumu Hula in a ritual known as Huiwai."

"Although I graduated as



Kumu Hula and was given the permission to teach Hula, I have always had a strong passion for the Tahitian Dance known as the Ori. The Tahitian dances for this years Program are special to me. In the early 90's my family and I produced a series of pieces for our group Otea Api. These dances were featured in the San Jose Tahiti Fete. These pieces went on to be award winning dances and music for our group. I am honored to be able to share some

of these songs and dances with the students of Te rama. One of the pieces include a tribute to my family's 'aumakua' (family protector) - the Honu (sea turtle). I am looking forward to presenting this piece this year for it will feature the entire cast of Te Orama as well."

"The costumes for this years program have been carefully chosen to best represent each and every one of the dances. The Hula Pa'u is the proper attire for

the Hula Kahiko. The colors represent the earth, while the green adornments give praise to nature. The Tahitian costumes are carefully hand-crafted from the hands of Tahitian Artisans (my wife - Nathalie Teura Manaois) and use natural materials of the islands that come from the Coconut Tree, The Pandanus Tree, and Mother of Pearl shells from the ocean. All of which help the dancer stay in touch and close to Nature."

"Through the three years that I have been teaching in WSPA and directing these young dancers, I feel they have shown a lot of growth and new found respect for the dance of Polynesia. They have come to understand not only the dance and music, but the interpretation of words to the music and to the dance. It something that is often misunderstood, but when understood, opens up a whole other world. This understanding in itself helps to transcend a dancer to portray the words, music and dance to an audience."

"Special Mahalo to my sister Kumu Katrina for sharing her talents with the students. Special Maururu to my wife Nathalie Teura and her mother Tureurea for designing and making the Tahitian Costumes. And a special Thank you to all of the students and parents of Te Orama for embracing the Polynesian Culture. Most especially, a special thank

you to the school directors Paul and Malu Peoples for opening the doors of WSPA and providing the students and the community it serves a chance to appreciate and learn the Polynesian culture."

Urban Paradise will be at the Palace of Fine Arts on March 7 and 8. March 7, Saturday, at 7pm will be an all-Hip Hop Showcase featuring WSPA's The Company and APT, plus a stellar list of dance crews from Northern and Southern California: Alan Agorilla, Triple Threat, CADC, UFO Movement, Press Play, Sherroes, SGBM, Gen II, Mind Over Matter, Damian "DMOE" Gomez, and Phoenix Dance Company. Programme II is the Polynesian and Hip Hop Showcase on March 8, at 6PM. Tickets can be bought by calling (650) 757-1244, or visit the WSPA office on 200 Northgate Ave., Daly City, CA 94015. \$25.00, Reserved Seats. ■

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.

Filipino-American Association of Foster City (FAAFC)

Contact: info@faafc.com / www.faafc.com
Membership: P.O. Box 4042, Foster City, CA 94404

THE Filipino-American Association of Foster City (FAAFC), located in the state of California, United States, aims to preserve, strengthen and enhance the spirit of unity among its members in order to protect their mutual interests, to improve their social and economic well-being, to preserve and promote their national, historic and cultural heritage, and to gain respect and recognition from the general community.

In 1978, a small group of Filipino-Americans met and organized FAAFC in Foster City, California. The group felt that there was a need for identification of Filipinos as vital ethnic group and that they could contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and political development of the newly chartered city of Foster city.

Membership is open to all who are entitled to membership by virtue of Philippine ancestry, along with their husbands, wives, and/or children of legal

age and any persons who have expressed the desire to participate and promote the purpose of this organization.

FAAFC provides ongoing sponsorships and contributions to the following charitable organizations in the Philippines: Philippine International Aid (PIA) where the organization currently supports five (5) scholars, Gawad Kalinga and ABS-CBN Foundation for Bantay Bata.

FAAFC 2007-2009 Officers
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Lourdes Ledesma - Vice President,
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PAMILYA NATIN: Malusog, Mapayapa, Matatag!

Celebrate Easter by learning about healthy relationships

Msr. Arcamo, Fr. Mark Reburiano, Consul Gen. Paynor, to speak at free seminar April 18 in St. Matthew Church

SAN MATEO - In celebration of Eastertide, the Archdiocese of San Francisco is stepping up its proactive stance in preventing and ending domestic violence with a campaign to educate the faith community about the issue and the resources available to help.

"Pamilya Natin: Malusog! Mapayapa! Matatag!" (Our Family: Healthy! Peaceful! Solid!), a free seminar set from 1-4 pm, Saturday, April 18 at the Parish Hall of the gymnasium of St. Matthew Church on 1 Notre Dame Ave., San Mateo, will offer information on building healthier family relationships.

Philippine Consul General Marciano Paynor Jr., Monsignor Floro Arcamo, St. Matthew associate pastor Mark Reburiano and Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) Board of Directors Chair Naomi Yunker will lead speakers at the event. CORA Kumares and Kumpares, the agency's Filipino American volunteer educators, will discuss the dynamics of both healthy and abusive relationships, parenting, and the faith community's responsibility in helping families heal. A Filipino American domestic violence survivor will give her testimony. Resource providers will be available for consultations.

Television/film/stage actor Giovannie Pico, a member of the CORA Board of Directors, is the



Philippine Consul General Marciano Paynor's wife Tessie Paynor (seated left) thanked Pamilya Natin steering committee members for their leadership in abuse prevention education: (seated right) St. Matthew Church associate pastor Mark Reburiano; (standing from left) CORA outreach coordinator Cherie Querol Moreno, CORA Kumares president Dr. Jei Africa and vice president Sarah Jane Illumin, CCCYO immigration services coordinator Diana Otero and Consulate cultural officer Erlinda Sesante.

special guest emcee.

Refreshments will be served. Free blood pressure exams will be offered. Service providers will be present for consultations on their products and services.

The event is a collaborative effort by the Archdiocese's social justice component Catholic Charities CYO, the Philippine Consulate, and CORA. First staged in 2007, the free seminar is the cross-agency response to the Catholic leadership's directive to enlighten both clergy and lay Church workers as well as the faithful on its position on domes-

tic violence.

"The Church desires to help those who are abused and all those who abuse," Niederauer said in a statement quoting from "When I Call For Help," a 1992 resolution from the Catholic Bishops of the United States to work vigorously against domestic violence and to place the Church's resources at the services of abused women as well as their abusers.

"The Bishops have asked all dioceses, parishes and organizations to make domestic violence a priority issue," said Niederauer. "The abused can find in the

Church a place to guide them to seek necessary help. Abusers can find in the Church a place to guide them to seek necessary help and conversion."

Catholic Charities CYO and the Philippine Consulate are a bridge between service providers and families in need.

CORA is the only private non-profit in San Mateo County providing core services for survivors of domestic violence and their children. It is the only Bay Area domestic violence agency funded specifically to outreach to Filipino Americans.

CORA formed its Kumares and Kumpares in 2003. The team is an all-volunteer task force representing the diverse sectors of the Filipino community. This year's members are Malou Aclan, RN; Dr. Jei Africa, Alice Bulos, Lorraine Canaya, NP; Sgt. Randy Caturay, Erlinda Galeon, Sarah Jane Illumin, Jennifer Jimenez, Edna Biscocho Murray, Yumi Querubin, Colma Mayor Joanne Del Rosario, Lina Susbilla, Robert Uy, Esq., and Bettina Santos Yap. Cherie Querol Moreno is CORA Community Outreach Coordinator.

The yearly event is held in collaboration with community sponsors Yashi Okita Design, Voltaire V. Yap Photography, Lena's Flowers & Gifts, Philippine News, Philippines Today, Manila Bulletin, Moonstar Restaurant, Seton Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente Medical Center.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, call St. Matthew Church (650) 344-7602, the Philippine Consulate (415) 391-7363; Catholic Charities (415) 972-1308 or CORA (650) 652 0800 Ext. 115. ■

Thelma Garcia...

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of Representatives as an Ad Hoc Democrat. She was subsequently re-elected to the Alaskan legislature in 1976, 1978, and 1980. Thelma was the first female Filipino American legislator in the United States of America and the first Filipino American elected to a United States legislative body by a constituency which was less than 3% Asian American and less than 1% Filipino American.

Thelma Bucholdt served on the House Finance Committee, later becoming vice-chair of the committee. She championed funding for the Spenard Community Recreation Center, the Dempsey-An-

derson Ice Arena, the Asian-Alaskan Cultural Center in Spenard, the renovation of the Filipino Community Hall in Juneau and many local roads, trails and parks. Thelma also sponsored and won funding for an underwater survey of Alaska's bowhead whale population. She also won funding for the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1980, Thelma was elected the first Asian-American president of the National Order of Women Legislators, and in 1994, she was appointed director of Alaska's Office of Equal Opportunity.

Thelma became an expert on

the history of Filipinos in Alaska. She produced a 30-minute documentary film on the subject and wrote a 200-page book, "Filipinos in Alaska 1788-1958." Thelma was a three-term national president of the Filipino-American National Historical Society.

When their four children Tania, Chris, Hans, and Dylan were grown, Thelma and Jon enrolled in the District of Columbia School of Law, graduating in 1991. Both became members of the Alaska Bar Association.

When Thelma died of pancreatic cancer on November 5, 2007, she was the National President of the Filipino American National Historical Society, and had written and lectured widely about Alaska's Filipino communities. The history of the Filipino diaspora to America was important to Thelma. She wrote about history. But more significantly, Thelma Garcia Bucholdt made history.

To honor this great Filipino American, November 10, 2007 was proclaimed Thelma Bucholdt Day by Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. ■



Naga City Mayor Jess Robredo and his wife, Nelly, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Amador Cuvin during their recent visit here in the Bay Area. In photo, (L-R) Mayor Jess Robredo, wife Nelly, Maricar Lawrence, Marissa Macandog Dycheng and Raquel Imperial Cuvin.



Edgardo P. De Leon and Luzviminda M. Maglaque celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and renewal of marriage vows last February 14, 2009 at the Basilica de San Miguel, Aviles Street, Manila. In photo are the couple and their children, (L-R) Luzedel Miel D. Suratos, Mrs. Luzviminda M. De Leon, Mr. Edgardo P. De Leon, Noel Richard M. De Leon, Roel Nick M. De Leon and Edgardo M. De Leon, Jr.

What every non-citizen...

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and for applicants whose residency application is pending, one should always avail of the service of experienced counsel prior to departing the United States.

in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.
Telephone: (800) 795-8009
E-mail: immigration@rreeves.com
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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case. (Advertising Supplement)

Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located