

People and Events

Voices old and new at the Wooden House

A poetry reading at the US Immigration Station, Angel Island

SAN FRANCISCO – In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage month, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the Angel Island State Park will hold a poetry reading at the historic US Immigration Station, Angel Island on Sunday, May 17 from 1pm to 2pm. This National Historic Landmark was preserved, restored, and reopened to the public recently. The Immigration Station was the point of entry for over one million immigrants from over 80 nations between 1910 and 1940. This “Ellis Island of the West” is known for the Chinese poems and other inscriptions written and carved on the barracks walls. Immigrants spent weeks and months undergoing interrogations to verify their legal right to enter the United States.

Playwright/Poet Genny Lim, author of the award-winning play Paper Angels and several collections of poetry, Winter Place, Child of War, and ISLAND: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910-1940, will recite a few of the poems written by immigrants at the Deten-

tion Barracks, known in Chinese as “the wooden house” as well as new poems from her book, Pilgrimage. Poets from Kearny Street Workshop’s P-Cubed, The Postcard Poetry Project: A Literary and Visual Exchange between Kearny Street Workshop and the Asian American Writers’ Workshop will also read original works. The Postcard Poets - Thy Tran, Cathlin Goulding, Lisa Leong, Khoi Nguyen, and Truc Nguyen, are led by Debbie Yee, whose poems will be featured in Best American Poetry 2009.

Several Bay Area leaders, including President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, David Chiu; San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar; Marin Community Foundation President Dr. Tom Peters; California State Parks Superintendent Danita Rodriguez; and others will read poems written by Angel Island immigrants.

The program is free. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for festival seating at the Immigration Station. Refreshments are available at the Angel Island Café.

Free, self-guided tours of the Detention

Barracks and the new interpretive panels on Immigration Station grounds are available before and after the poetry reading program. Visitors are encouraged to read aloud the hundreds of poems carved onto the walls. English translations will be available.

Ferry service to Angel Island is available from San Francisco on the Blue and Gold Fleet, which departs from Pier 41 at 9:45am, 11:45am and 1:50pm. Round-trip tickets are \$15.00/adult and \$8.50/children. Return service to San Francisco is at 2:55 pm and 4:15pm.

To reach Angel Island from Tiburon, take the Tiburon ferry at 10am, 11am, 12pm, and 1pm. The roundtrip fee is \$13.50/adult and \$ 11.50/children. Return service to Tiburon is at 3:20pm, 4:20pm and 5:20pm.

For more information about the program, call (415) 262-4429. For more information about the US Immigration Station at Angel Island State Park, call (415) 435-5537. ■

Gracia Burnham as guest speaker at the Vallejo Bible Church

Faith. Hope. Love... Will all these survive in a year of terror?

KIDNAPPED by the Abu Sayyaf, Martin and Gracia Burnham spent a perilous year of captivity in the Philippine jungle.

Facing near starvation, constant exhaustion, frequent gun battles and coldhearted murder, they did some intense soul-searching about a God who sometimes seemed to have forgotten them.

On June 7, 2002, in a fire-fight between the Philippine military and the Abu Sayyaf, Martin was killed. Gracia was



wounded, but freed.

The Vallejo Bible Church cordially invites you to hear how, during difficult times, faith and love survive.

Gracia Burnham will be the guest speaker at the Vallejo Bible

Church on Saturday, April 25, at 7:00pm at 448 Carolina St., Vallejo, CA 94590. For more information, you can call (707) 644-2743, email kcheckman@sbc.global.net or rcdacs@comcast.net, or log on to www.vallejobiblechurch.org. ■

Multicultural awareness campaign on dangers of secondhand smoke on kids

Partners include Farmers Insurance, Pep Boys and community groups

LOS ANGELES – First 5 California is launching a grassroots outreach effort to raise awareness among diverse communities about the dangers of secondhand smoke on young children and to promote California’s “Smoke-Free Cars with Minors” law. As part of this awareness campaign, the agency is partnering with well-established businesses in California, including Farmers Insurance and The Pep Boys – Manny, Moe and Jack, as well as community organizations, to distribute smoking cessation information at locations that millions of families regularly visit – insurance offices, auto repair stores, churches and community events.

“Thanks to our partnerships

with Farmers Insurance and Pep Boys, when families are getting their vehicles insured, maintained or repaired, they will be informed about how smoking in cars hurts the most vulnerable among us, young children,” said Kris Perry, executive director of First 5 California.

The statewide awareness campaign will inform Californians about the dangers of secondhand smoke and place special emphasis on reaching parents and caregivers who don’t routinely access mainstream media. First 5 California and its partners will engage in a multi-pronged collaborative effort to blanket African American, Latino and Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities with these messages at a grass-

roots level through online platforms, posters and word-of-mouth campaigns.

“Many APIA populations in California are more likely to smoke than the general population and are less likely to be aware of the unhealthy effects of tobacco,” said Perry. “That’s why it’s essential for the APIA community to become informed about how secondhand smoke can harm young children and negatively impact their own well-being.”

Overall, 42 percent of children in the US are exposed to secondhand smoke every week, according to recent findings by the Social Climate Survey of Tobacco.

Research shows that the health of young children is affected whenever they breathe

secondhand smoke, and that children who have never smoked a cigarette can still develop the symptoms of nicotine addiction. For pregnant women who smoke, there is greater risk of suffering a miscarriage or delivering an underweight baby.

“There is no ‘safe’ exposure to secondhand smoke,” said Dr. Michelle Anne Bholat, vice chair of clinical affairs at the UCLA Department of Medicine. “It increases the incidence of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) as well as a child’s risk of developing asthma, ear infections and bronchitis. Long-term exposure can lead to lung cancer

and heart disease in adults.”

California’s “Smoke-Free Cars with Minors” law took effect last year and made it illegal for adults to smoke in a car when children are present. Fines for violating this law can reach \$100. Studies have found that secondhand smoke inside the confined space of a car is particularly harmful for children, with the air quality becoming up to 10 times more toxic than the level considered hazardous by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of its awareness campaign, First 5 California will encourage people who would like help to quit smok-

ing to contact the California Smokers’ Helpline for a free personalized quitting plan. Californians can call (800) NO-BUTTS for English assistance, (800) 838-8917 for Chinese assistance, (800) 556-5564 for Korean assistance or (800) 778-8440 for Vietnamese assistance.

For more information about the health and early education programs offered by First 5 California, call (800) KIDS-025 for English assistance, (800) 597-9366 for Chinese assistance, (800) 597-9511 for Korean assistance or (800) 597-9855 for Vietnamese assistance. They can also visit first5california.com. ■

An afternoon of Philippine Classics

ON June 7, 2009, at 3:00 in the afternoon, the Obandenian Association of Northern California will present An Afternoon of Philippine Classics at Angelico Hall, Dominican University of California, 50 Acacia Ave., San Rafael, California. Featured artists are soprano Catherine Alcorin-Ellacer, violinists Julie Mellon and Ed Wilcox, and pianist Josephine Claridades Sanchez, who is also the producer.

The repertoire consists of original and arranged versions of music written from 1920-1960 by early Filipino composers who brought about the evolution of Philippine music: all-time favorites like Mutya ng Pasig, Sa Kabukiran, Tag-araw, Ang Maya,

Kataka-taka, No Duaem Pay, Sampaguita, Hatinggabi, Bayan Ko, Pobreng Aindahaw and more.

The concert is to benefit the Scholarship Fund, Medical/Dental Mission and other projects of the Obandenian Association of Northern California to help families in the poor areas of Obando, Bulacan, Philippines.

Concert tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for children 13 years old and below.

For tickets and more information, please visit our web site at www.obandenian.org or call Josephine at (415) 272-0874 or Ed at (209) 824-9323. ■

In Memoriam

Bonifacio Dizon Niño

Gentleman, farmer, World War II Veteran, civic leader

A LONGTIME 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. ■

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.

Association of Filipinos Abroad & Relatives (AFAR)

Contact : www.afar-phil.com

AS a result of the many news reports involving Filipinos abroad being executed, sentenced to death, imprisoned, met accidents, and encountered difficulties for lack of legal, medical and/or financial help, coupled with allegations of corruption and poverty in our country, the Association of Filipinos Abroad & Relatives (AFAR) was organized on Feb. 20, 2007, with the vision of seeing an honest and efficient Filipino government and people, and a two-fold mission (1) to help and protect Filipinos abroad and their relatives and friends in the Philippines, and (2) to restructure the Philippine government and laws to minimize corruption and poverty, to make government services efficient and satisfactory, to promote and require honesty in all public and private transactions, and to de-

velop the country towards peace, justice, progress, freedom and equality, economically, politically, socially, and spiritually.

Dr. Epimaco M. Densing, Jr., a former faculty of the Graduate School of Public Administration of U.P. and the Graduate School of Management of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, a Master of Public Administration, a Doctor of Management, and a management and finance practitioner, was elected Charter Worldwide President.

Groups of Filipinos abroad and in the Philippines encouraged and supported AFAR’s mission. Filipinos in the United States, led by Jesse Arteche, a leader in the East Coast, financially, technically, and organizationally made possible the reach of AFAR to many Filipinos in many countries worldwide. ■



The largest Filipino/Asian retail business in US needs to fill up the following positions in

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

We are looking for qualified individuals to be trained for Store management positions. Retail experience would be an advantage. People oriented: Enjoys interacting with others; able to work as part of a team; has leadership qualities to manage and mobilize a group of people to achieve assigned goals. Has positive attitude: Energetic, enthusiastic and optimistic.

Successful applicants must be willing to be trained in all aspects of grocery and fresh food operations, be able to lift up to 50 lbs., work long hours in a standing position and must be willing to work in any of the Seafood City Store branches for short to medium durations depending on the needs of the company.

SUPERVISORY TRAINEES

We are looking for candidates willing to be trained in certain areas of Store Operations such as grocery, seafood, meat and produce departments. A Self starter and people oriented: Should be a “hands on” person with good people skills and able to support and lead a team of 10-20 people in a department. Candidate should possess excellent time management and organizational skills and must be able to lift up to 50 lbs., work for long hours in a standing position.

Successful applicants will undergo 3-6 month training program in an assigned dry or fresh department. Must be willing to work in any of the Seafood City Store branches for short to medium durations depending on the needs of the company.

CASHIERS

Responsible for cashiering and point of sales operations in the store. Must possess good customer service skills, must be able to pay attention to details and can work long hours in a standing position.

MEAT SLICERS/ CLERKS

Service customers’ meat orders. Fast & safe worker. Willing to learn. Able to work with minimum supervision. Able to lift 50-lb boxes. Experience not necessary. Will train qualified candidates.

FISH CLEANERS

Responsible for cleaning and scaling fish. Can work with minimum supervision. Able to lift 50 lb. boxes. Experience not necessary. We will train qualified candidates.

UTILITY PERSONNEL

Responsible for keeping the store orderly and clean. Sweeps, mops, scrubs, etc. Able to lift 50 lb. boxes.

Please e-mail resume to hrdepartment@seafoodcity.com or mail application to 2883 Surveyor Street, Pomona, CA 91768