

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.

Ormocanon International

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THE Ormocanon International trace its humble beginning on the morning of June 27, 2006 in Ormoc City, Leyte, Philippines where the city celebrated its two-week long fiesta celebration in honor of its patron saints, St. Peter and St. Paul.

This day was just like any other from fiestas of years past when balikbayans or expatriates from all over the world, congregate in Ormoc to pay homage and celebrate the annual fiesta celebration in honor of the city's patron saints. What was unusual about this day was the number of foreign holiday revelers who have come from several countries of the world including the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, and Kingdom of Bahrain to name a few. There were more people who have come this time around.

As a gesture of gratitude and hospitality, the new leader of Ormoc, Mayor Eric C. Codilla invited all the balikbayans to the Codilla Guest House in Ormoc for an official "Welcome Home" luncheon. The atmosphere at the luncheon was very warm and friendly and everyone who came made connections with long lost friends and made new ones -- a very nice way of opening the events to follow.

After the sumptuous meal and other preliminary events have transpired, the Mayor delivered his welcome speech, which was directed to everyone in attendance. At the speech, the Mayor conveyed his vision of how Ormoc should be given all the natural resources and the talents of its residents, both internal and external. Then the Mayor delivered his keynote of inspiring everyone to give back to the city and the country of origin in the form of charitable donations, projects, and commitments. Case in point was the project the Ormocanon Circle, USA based in Mission Viejo, Southern California, USA, which had inaugurated its first public service project of a waiting shed in the Ormoc City High School area the day prior. (Click HERE to view the pictures of the event). He further acknowledged other note worthy efforts from other expatriates from other countries who had also made contributions in other forms.

It was then that the Mayor conveyed his vision of possibly consolidating all the "ragtag" charitable efforts and entities into one organization that will conform to the following standards:

1. Be a non-political, non-sectarian organization free from influences of external or-

ganizations.

2. To create a greater impact on home land projects.

3. To muster together resources from different Ormoc organizations from around the world.

4. To promote a wide scope of cultural and social exchanges between Ormocanons around the globe.

5. To serve as a unifying beacon of all Ormocanons internationally.

6. To promote partnership with the city government in projects that are not government funded, civic infrastructures, humanitarian projects both in peaceful and emergency situations. This will be accomplished by the local government matching any monetary funds of what the organization can muster towards a mutually agreed project.

At the end of Mayor Codilla's speech, Chito Cala Arradaza of Los Angeles, California a dynamic leader and Ex-President of Ormocanon Circle, USA, made a proposal to "strike while the iron is hot" and go ahead and organize the organization now while they are still assembled. The congregation of balikbayan participants was very receptive and agreed to the proposal and immediately organized where the name "Ormocanon International" was conceived. ■

DENTIST'S CORNER



DR. LIBRADA C. YAMAT

WHETHER you're a recreational rink rat, a weekend warrior or a professional athlete, and regardless of whether you have a full set of pearly whites or only a few teeth in your mouth, anybody participating in a physical sport or activity is advised to protect their mouth with a full cage on their helmet, and an athletic mouth guard.

A properly fitted mouth guard is important piece of athletic equipment: it can cushion a blow that might otherwise cause broken teeth, and injuries to the lips, tongue, face or jaw.

Safeguard your smile

Mouth guards are also believed to aid in reducing severity and incidence of concussions.

The most effective mouth guard should be comfortable, resilient and tear-resistant, and not restrict your speech or breathing. There are now a variety of mouth guards available to protect the smiles of athletes in any sport.

The ready made, stock mouth guard. Although inexpensive and easily available at any sporting goods store, these "one-size-fits-all" mouth guards rarely fit anyone properly. They're bulky, hard to breathe in and don't provide much protection.

The "boil and bite" mouth guard. These are also available at retail stores. While still some what bulky, they provide a better fit than the stock mouth guards, as the wearer first softens them in hot water,

then shapes them to their own mouth.

The custom-made mouth guards issued by dentists. These are individually customized to your mouth, and provide the best fit, comfort and protection.

It's important to take any removable appliances, such as an orthodontic retainer, removable bridge or dentures, out of your mouth before putting your mouth guard in place. And once its in place, remember to wear your mouth guard during practices as well as games.

Dr. Librada C. Yamat is a Family Dentist specializing in Cosmetic Dentistry. She has been practicing since 1992 in her Daly City office located at 187 Southgate Ave. (650) 991-2832. Recently, Dr. Yamat opened another dental office in San Bruno (1001 San Bruno Ave., Tel. No. (650) 873-4740). She is president of the MCU Dental Alumni Association and former president of the American Federation of Filipino Dental Practitioners.

(Advertising Supplement)

People and Events



BASIC TAGALOG CLASSES. The Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center (PBRC) will conduct teachings on Basic Tagalog classes every Wednesday beginning on May 20 to July 22, 2009 from 6 to 8pm. This is a 10-week session on Basic Tagalog program to be conducted by State Commissioner Ray Satorre who is the project director. He will be supported by a pool of consultants and teachers, namely Sonia Reyes, Erlinda Galeon, Leonida Gementera and Jane Kellner. The PBRC office is located at 2121 Junipero Serra Blvd. in Daly City. Deanne Young-Tayag is presently the president of the PBRC. For all those interested to participate and learn Basic Tagalog, please call Olive at (650) 992-9110. Photo above shows State Commissioner Ray Satorre (right) with State Senator Leland Yee.

LBC offers new service -- Instant Peso Padala

From Dollars to Peso in an instant -- for only \$3

"The IPP is an innovative product that will deliver value and convenience to both the recipients and senders of LBC's money remittance service in the U.S.," says Hugo Bonilla, president and CEO of LBC USA.



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO -- As an innovator and leading provider of "padala" services for Filipinos in the US, LBC Mundial Corporation (LBC

USA) brings its money remittance services to an even higher level by introducing a new form of delivery to the Philippines. Responding to the growing needs of Filipinos in the US who send money to the Philippines, LBC USA launched its new Instant Peso Padala (IPP). Starting May 1, 2009, LBC branches in the US that offer money remittance services have also started offering the IPP.

Like its name implies, the IPP service allows recipients in the Philippines to immediately pick-up the money sent from the US from any LBC branch in the Philippines.

"The IPP is an innovative product that will deliver value and convenience to both the recipients and senders of LBC's money remittance service in the US," says Hugo Bonilla, president and CEO of LBC USA.

He further notes that the IPP "will allow Filipinos in the US to immediately respond to the financial needs of their loved ones in the Philippines, particularly in cases of emergencies."

By eliminating the waiting time for money remittance, LBC USA has given Filipinos in the US a better way of meeting the financial needs of their loved ones back home.

"The IPP service is LBC's response to the changing and growing needs of Filipinos for money remittance services. Through the IPP, we hope to help them help their families and loved ones back home better and faster," adds Mr.

Bonilla.

The IPP service is initially available in Metro Manila branches of LBC but will soon be offered in all 750 LBC branches located all over the Philippines. Money remitted through the IPP service is limited only to P10,000.00 per transaction.

Prior to the introduction of IPP, money sent by Filipinos in the US through LBC can be delivered using four methods -- LBC's ATM Bilis Padala service, home delivery, branch pick-up and bank-to-bank deposit.

LBC's ATM Bilis Padala service is the fastest money remittance service offered by the company -- with the money available for withdrawal from any ATM in the Philippines after only 15 seconds.

While many LBC customers still prefer the traditional home delivery service and branch pick-up or the convenience of the ATM Bilis Padala service, LBC has also learned that many customers want the flexibility of sending money anytime.

With the IPP, both senders and recipients can enjoy the safety offered by the branch pick-up and home delivery services and at the same time the convenience of immediate availability of the funds.

In addition to the benefits of IPP, customers using the new service can also avail of the new lowered pricing that LBC has implemented starting May 2009.

For as low as \$3 for every transaction, customers can avail of the value and benefits of sending money to their loved ones in the Philippines through IPP.

For more details on the new IPP service, please call LBC USA at 1-800-3385424 or visit www.teamlbc.com for the location of LBC USA's 60 branches in the US. (Advertising Supplement)

UAA scholarship college assistance

SCHOLARSHIP grants are based on the applicants' high school academic achievements, community leadership and participation, character, Urdaneta City parentage and parents' annual income. There are currently five (5) ongoing scholars of the UAA, Inc. Each of the four Urdaneta City awardees receive \$300 every school year for four (4) years. The present Bay Area one-time scholarship awardee of \$500 is Aaron Joseph Mara, the son of Joseph and Lyn Mara from San Jose, California. The UAA, Inc. has been sponsoring this worthy

cause since its rebirth in 2000. Deserving and qualified college-bound students may apply for this scholarship assistance during the month of May and June.

UAA, Inc. will also hold a fund-raising casino at Feather Falls and Gold Country on May 17, and a Dinner and Dance at Buri-Buri, South San Francisco on July 11.

For more information, please call UAA, Inc. president Puri A. Soriben at (650) 742-9340, Aurora M. Langit at (415) 468-8178, Beth M. Locquiao at (408) 802-0710 or Fely Villacorta at (707) 6420-7337. ■



Junellie V. Murillo (center) is shown in photo with Urdaneta High School educators -- principal Mr. Pataksil and Mrs. Aurora M. Langit, chairman of the Urdaneta Association of America, Inc. Board of Directors. Junellie is a new college-bound, four-year scholarship assistance recipient. She is the daughter of Anastacio and Trinidad Murillo, Jr. from Urdaneta City, Philippines.

USTHS Alumni Homecoming

CALLING all members of USTHS 1960! We are the Golden Jubilarians for the USTHS Alumni Homecoming of 2010. Join the fun! Relive memories! Your batchmates are waiting for you -- after 50 years. See you all at the GAH on 20 Feb. 2010. Be present too, at the Batch 60 Golden Jubilee Reunion (2-day outing and Grand Ball) on 22-24 Feb. 2010.

For details please contact the following coordinators:

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