

People and Events

Family Appointment with Yahweh El Shaddai

EVERYONE is invited to join a family appointment with Yahweh El Shaddai, the God who is more than enough where Jesus Christ is Lord, on the first, second and third Saturdays of the month from 6:30-9pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in 2020 East San Antonio Street, San Jose CA 95116.

For more information, please contact Ann Pascua at (408) 987-9610.

Fil-Am graduates as valedictorian from Pittsburg High School, CA

PITTSBURG, CA—Filipino-American Elisa Jordan Sunga graduated with a weighted GPA of 4.56 from Pittsburg High School and was named valedictorian of the high school class of 2009. Sunga has been accepted to the University of California Berkeley where she will study international business relations.

Sunga has received various scholarships from Assistance of Diablo Valley League, Bay Area Council Scholarship Program, Berkeley Minority Foundation, California School Employees Association (CSEA), CSEA Chapter 44, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Delta Realtors Community Service Foundation Scholarship, Fil-American Association of Pittsburg, Kiwanis of Pittsburg, New American Scholarship Fund,



and Pittsburg Masonic Lodge. Elisa Sunga is the daughter of Dex Sunga of Masantol, Pampanga and formerly Josephine Rialubin of Baguio City, Philippines. The Sungas including their son, Kevin Magic Sunga, are now based in Antioch, California.

Sons & Daughters of Binmaley, USA Induction and Annual Dinner & Dance

THE Sons & Daughters of Binmaley USA, Inc., one of the oldest town/community associations in the Bay Area, will hold its Induction Ball and Annual Dinner & Dance on June 20, 2009 at the San Leandro Gymnasium in San Leandro, CA from 6pm to 1am. The event also features a blessing and procession in honor of the patroness of Binmaley, Pangasinan—Our Lady of Purification.

Rollie Lavarias, president of Statewide Realty and an insurance broker, takes over the helm of the 44-year-old organization. He has also been the president of the Daly City-Quezon City Sister City Committee.

Joining Lavarias in the new set of officers to be inducted at the celebration are Gerry Matias, 1st vice president; Peter Salo, 2nd vice president; Edgar Delos Angeles, chair of the Board of Directors; Teofilo De Vera Jr., vice-chair of the Board of Directors; and other noteworthy members of the organization. They will be sworn into office by none other than Pangasinan Senior Board Member Von Mark Mendoza of the 2nd District.

Board Member Mendoza is the son of former Lingayen Mayor and former 2nd District Congressman Chris Mendoza. The young and energetic lawmaker started in politics at a young age when

he became president of the Lingayen Sangguniang Kabataan. In 1992, he was elected president of the SK Provincial Federation of Pangasinan which made him a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as youth representative. In 1998, he was elected as a regular Board Member for the 2nd District of the Pangasinan Provincial Board. He was re-elected to the same post in 2004 and 2007.

The Sons & Daughters of Binmaley USA, Inc. is active in helping the town of Binmaley, Pangasinan through donations, the most prominent of which was the construction of the Candelaria at the Binmaley Parish Church. It has also conducted medical missions in the last three years, and will hold a 4th medical mission in January of 2010.

All former residents of Binmaley living in the Bay Area are encouraged and cordially invited to attend the June 20 event. Music will be provided by The Housekeepers, led by Ed Fernandez, who is a member of the Board of Directors.

Please contact Sally Sajonas Fernandez, treasurer, at (510) 882-0800 or Bonnie Valerio, Board Director, at (510) 395-2143 for more details or to reserve your tickets priced at \$25 each.

TGF&S-NC-USA partners with Tau Gamma Phi—Philippines to Distribute School Supplies and Feeding Program

TO promote for school preparedness, Barangay 79 Barangay Hall in Tondo, Manila is all set for the Triskelions Cares project of the TGF&S-NC-USA and Tau Gamma Phi—Philippines.

“Ensuring that some of the needy children have the proper supplies for a successful school year is vital to their future success,” said Art Liguiddliquid, President of TGF&S-NC-USA. “We are pleased to partner with the Tau Gamma Phi—Philippines and its Triskelion Cares program to distribute necessary school supplies.”

Arthur Loreto of Tondo, Manila is very thankful for the concern and assistance that both TGF&S-NC-USA and Tau Gamma Phi - Philippines are willing to give us by collecting and promoting for our Tools for School Program. Outreach programs like this will enable

us to serve about 200 kids from 4 Barangays in District 1 and Zone 7 with the right tools as they go back to school this June.

Manpower for the project will be mostly from the Tau Gamma Phi—San Sebastian College Chapter and other Triskelions from various cities and some coming all the way from Laguna. Aside from distributing school supplies, we will also have a feeding program for the kids.

The project will start at 3pm, Saturday, on June 13. Barangay 79 Barangay Hall is located in F. Baron St. and Corner Kapalongan in Panday Pira (formerly Bangkusay) at Tondo, Manila. If you are interested in volunteering or support the project, please stop by or call Arthur Loreto at (0927) 448-1123.

The UST Singers in concert

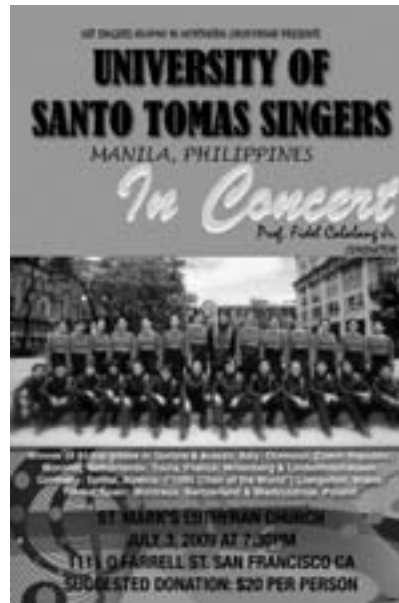
THE world-renowned University of Santo Tomas Singers from Manila, The Philippines will be having a concert on July 3, 7:30pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street San Francisco, CA 94109.

The UST Singers has established itself as one of the finest mixed choirs in the Philippines,

and has realized tremendous success in a short span of time. Led by its conductor and founder Prof. Fidel G. Calalang, Jr., it consists of a unique blend of singers who are mainly students and a limited number of alumni representing the different colleges and faculties of the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, the oldest Uni-

versity in Asia.

Since it was founded in 1992, the choir has continued to impress audiences, encompassing music of different genres and from all periods. In the course of 17 years, the UST Singers has completed 15 concert tours in Europe, the USA, Canada, Mexico and Asia, and has earned more than 45 top prizes in various international choral competitions, one of which is the Choir Of the World Grand Prize at the 49th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales United Kingdom, making them the first and only Asian choir to achieve such title. The choir has sung for Pope John Paul II, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain, Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya of Thailand, Luciano Pavarotti, the Philippine Presidents Dios-



dado Macapagal, Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. They also recently represented the country to the World Expo in Zaragoza, Spain.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Christopher Salanguit @ chrissalanguit@yahoo.com or Jenny Mendoza @ jenileung@yahoo.com.

Fil-Am graduates with Biochemistry and Molecular Biology degree

SCOTT James Franco Espinosa, son of Franklin and Nelly Espinosa, graduated from University of California-Davis last Friday, June 12. He successfully achieved a degree in Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

On June 13, Scott James participated in UC Davis' annual Filipino graduation at the Freeborn Hall. He received a Community Organization award for his 4-year commitment to BRIDGE: Filipin@ Outreach and Retention Program.



In photo (L-R) Shannon John Franco Espinosa, Franklin Diaz Espinosa, Scott James Franco Espinosa and Stephen Bruce Franco Espinosa.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FILM FEST AT SEAFOOD CITY VALLEJO Short Films document WWII in RP

THREE documentaries cataloguing the experiences of heroes and survivors of World War II in the Philippines will be shown at the Balibkayan Center of Seafood City in Vallejo on June 20 and June 27, part of the Independence Day Film Festival in honor of the 111th celebration of Philippine Independence sponsored by Seafood City and Globe Telecom.

The short films are the work of award-winning documentary filmmaker Lucky Guillermo, who has won the Golden Quill Award (the equivalent of the Emmy), and the Anvil five times.

The documentaries will be shown on both dates with the following schedule: 3pm—Unsurrendered: 100 Voices; 4pm—Manila 1945: The Forgotten Atrocities; and 5pm—Secret War in the Pacific.

Unsurrendered: 100 Voices captures WWII in the words of both

Filipino and American guerrillas, while Manila 1945: The Forgotten Atrocities chronicles the abuses suffered by Philippine residents at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army during the Japanese occupation and just before it was liberated by American and Filipino guerrilla forces. The latter picked up an award at the 2007 Myrtle Beach International Festival in South Carolina.

Meanwhile, Secret War in the Pacific, is the story of Cmdr. Charles “Chick” Parsons, the man Gen. Douglas MacArthur called “the bravest man he had ever known.”

According to Guillermo, part of their motivation to make these films was the fact that most people, including students in the Philippines, do not know anything about World War II, and how it affected the country and its citizens.

Guillermo, who along with film partner Peter Parsons are scions of guerrilla resistance leaders, added that they were at the point of exasperation while showing the films in schools and universities in the Philippines until a female student at University of the Philippines in Diliman related to them that during the Japanese assault in the Philippines their grandfather had butchered chickens and scattered the blood underneath their skirts to make them undesirable to the Japanese.

Asked if these films may stir negative emotions towards the Japanese people or strain relations between Japan and the Philippines, Guillermo had this to say: “Primarily, I am a filmmaker and we document what really happened. Some of the people we talk to might tell a little white lie, but these can be counter-checked with other testimonies. We don't care if somebody gets hurt here. We'd like to show it the way it was.”

Admission to the showing of the three short documentaries is free. DVD copies of the three docu-films are available at \$20 each during the showing. Seafood City Vallejo is located at 3495 Sonoma Blvd. in Vallejo. For more information, call (707) 654-1972.

SFPCG 'Consulate on Wings' Flies to Alaska

THE Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco successfully conducted back to back consular outreach missions to Anchorage (May 29-31) and Fairbanks (June 1-2) in Alaska, in coordination with the Filipino-American communities in these two cities.

The two consular missions to Alaska were the fifth and sixth organized by the consulate for the year.

The “Consulate on Wings” team to Alaska was led by Deputy Consul General Wilfredo

C. Santos. He was accompanied by Mr. Florentino D. Granada and Mr. John Danilo G. Jiao, Jr.

The outreach activity in Anchorage was held at the Asian Alaskan Cultural Center located at 4807 Northwood Drive, Anchorage. In Fairbanks, outreach services were rendered by the consulate team at the Ice Alaska Building at 1925 Chena Landing Loop, Fairbanks.

“We are pleased with the large turnout of applicants during our outreach missions to Anchorage and Fairbanks,” said Deputy Consul General Wilfredo C. Santos.

“Many of our applicants applied for dual citizenship and renewal of their expired Philippine passports. We are glad that we were able to bring directly our services to our Kababayans in this part of the United States,” he added. While in Alaska,

the consulate team also attended the 6th Annual Founders' Banquet and Ball of the Filipino Community of Alaska held at the Anchorage Marriott Hotel on 30 May. The theme of the event was the “Political and Economic Empowerment for Filipino Americans and Immigrants in Alaska.”

Deputy Consul General Wilfredo Santos, who inducted the new officers of the Filipino Community of Alaska (FCA), commended the community for selecting this theme.

“I strongly believe that even in these tough economic times, Filipino Americans are already economically empowered, as they continue to contribute to the economic welfare of the Philippines. Brilliant and skillful, they are noted and distinguished in all sectors not only here in the US but around the world. Hard working as they excel in their respective fields, they are counted upon to be responsive and productive in addressing challenges of the global industry,” he said.

A total of 326 services were rendered by the 3-man consulate team in Alaska. This includes the processing of applications for dual citizenship (82), renewal of passports and issuance of travel documents (90), legalization of documents (108), and other services (46).



DCG Wilfredo Santos and members of the consular outreach team with young generation Filcom members in Anchorage, Alaska



Deputy Consul General Wilfredo Santos (center) with new dual citizens in Anchorage and Fairbanks (inset), Alaska at the Oath-taking ceremonies held during the back to back consular outreach mission.



DCG Wilfredo Santos with newly inducted Filcom leaders at the Founders Banquet held at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska