

## People and Events

# Press Club Kapihan tackles Overseas Absentee Voting

IN an effort to encourage more Filipino-Americans to participate in the May 2010 Philippine Presidential Elections, the Philippine American Press Club, in cooperation with the Federation of Philippine American Chambers of Commerce, will hold a Kapihan on June 27, 2009, Saturday, from 10:00am to 12 noon at the Social Hall of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco (447 Sutter Street, 5th floor).

So far, more than 460,000 overseas Filipinos have registered to vote, with 90,000 of them first-timers.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said that it is counting on over a million Filipinos abroad to register and at least 70 percent of them to actually cast their vote in the May 2010 election.

Philippine officials said the votes of at least 700,000 overseas Filipinos should be enough to considerably affect the choice for the next president.

Qualified overseas Filipinos have until August 31 to register as absentee voters.

Speakers for the forum include Vice Consul Leah Rodriguez, who will talk about

new measures in overseas absentee voting; ABS-CBN North America News Bureau Chief Ging Reyes, former Hercules Mayor Frank Batara; and FPACC Special Projects Chair Jossie Alegre who will discuss ways on how to reach out to the Filipino community and inform them of their right to vote in their homeland.

For more information on the June 27 Kapihan, you may contact Charito Benipayo, Kapihan Chair, at (510) 301-4693 or Esther Chavez, PAPC President, at (650) 278-0256.

## RE:UNION

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.

## Save A Tahanan, Inc.

Contact: 40343 Robin Street, Fremont, CA 94538  
Tel. no. (510) 573-2908 / Fax (510) 659-8908

Email: info@save-a-tahanan.org / www.save-a-tahanan.org

Save A Tahanan, Inc. (STI) is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. It was founded in 1986 by a group of Filipino-Americans based in San Francisco, whose families originally came from Calabanga, Camarines Sur. These couples agreed to pursue their strong passion to share their blessings. Combining their resources of money, time and talents, they started a journey to fulfill that passion and named it Save A Tahanan, Inc. (STI) and that led them back home -- to their roots in Calabanga, Camarines Sur. As with any journey, they faced with obstacles, but their strong passion guided them to reach their goal—to help alleviate the poor living conditions of their kababayans in the Philippines.

The passion to share their blessings that started that journey had touched the lives of more than 700 families. Families that were given opportunities through micro-financing that is incorporated with values-formation and skill-enhancement seminars. Self-sufficient families that are making a difference in their communities.

**Guiding principles of STI**  
**Mission** - To mobilize resources to improve the lives of families through training and microfinancing and to empower them as responsible members of the community.

**Vision** - To promote self-sufficient and stable families, leading communities to develop oppor-

tunities and collective solutions to issues of poverty, and upholding respect for all people of economic levels.

**Values** - STI believes that a self-sufficient tahanan (home) is the foundation of a strong society. It is guided by the principles of sharing and participation that instills accountability.

**The integrated STI programs**

**Education and training.** This is designed to help beneficiaries acquire the needed knowledge and skills and to redirect their attitudes and values towards self-reliance and personal dignity.

**Health.** Following the adage "Health is wealth", Save A Tahanan also assists in providing both dental and medical care.

**Livelihood.** Low interest loans are granted to qualified beneficiaries for livelihood projects or small business ventures to increase food production and business productivity. Beneficiaries adhere to the maxim: "Business with a Conscience!" or "Quality before Quantity!"

**Civic consciousness and adult literacy.** Save A Tahanan believes that man should be an active member of his community. Responsibility extends beyond himself and his immediate family, it encompasses the broader society beyond. Indeed, Save A Tahanan is a believer in the lines of John Donne that, "No man is an island entire of himself. Every man is part of a continent."

**Assistance to other NGOs.** Save A Tahanan extends technical assistance to other organizations involved in community-building and self-reliance.



PVB PICNIC. Former employees of Philippine Veterans Bank-Northern California Group had their annual picnic and get together held at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont, California last June 20. Photo shows some of the members who graced the affair (seated, L-R) Angie Virola and Jun Baldia, (standing, L-R) Tito Facion, Wilson Mendoza and guest, Ernie Tongson, Evelyn Reyes, Yeyeng Taguiam, Rudy and Peanuts Ferranco, Marites Famacion, Norma Valle and Tony Reyes. Not in picture were Lita Panoringan and Elly Valle.

## Prime Note Ensemble Concert

We would like to invite all our kababayans to the Prime Note Ensemble's concert at St. John the Baptist Church, 11150 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito Ca 94530 at 7:30pm on 29 June, Monday.

The Prime Note Ensemble is the first Filipino A Capella Choir from Saudi Arabia. The choir is scheduled to compete in California International Choral Competition to be held at San Luis Obispo from 25-28 June 2009 and Europe in July 2009.

The \$20 donation will go to ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata and Adopt a Hometown School Programs, Missionaries of Charities, among others.

## 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.

## The UST Singers in concert

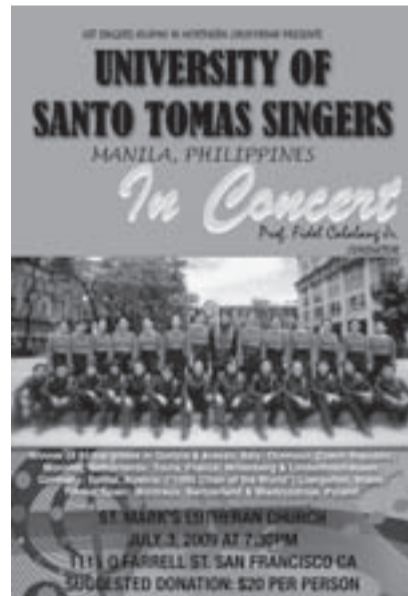
THE world-renowned University of Santo Tomas Singers from Manila, The Philippines will be having a concert on July 3, 7:30pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street San Francisco, CA 94109.

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.

**Prime Note Ensemble**  
1st Filipino A cappella Choir in Saudi Arabia  
For Fr. John's 50th Anniversary and Birthday Celebration

June 29, 2009 @ 7:30pm  
St. John the Baptist Church  
11150 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito CA  
\$20 DONATION

EVENT and TICKET INFO  
(In Mercado) 415-424-1259 / 918-332-8832  
Market Mercado 415-240-5502 / 415-678-9521  
www.kapitan2009.com / www.kapitanproduction.com

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PCN Performers  
DJ Dumbales



## Mentors who support students receive TCWF Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award

Los Angeles—Guillermo J. Camacho, a dentist in West Covina, benefited from, and continues to give back to a program at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, that encourages students of color to pursue health careers. Shirley Flores-Muñoz of Watsonville founded and directs a program at Cabrillo College that helps disadvantaged students expand and reach their health career aspirations by providing mentorship and other support. Tomás A. Magaña, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital in Oakland, started a collaborative program to bring high school students into local hospitals to pursue health careers.

On June 15, 2009, The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) honors these three leaders at its seventh annual "Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award" ceremony in Los Angeles. In recognition of their efforts to reduce entry barriers and to ensure the success of underrepresented minorities in the health workforce, the honorees will each receive a cash award of \$25,000.

"These three leaders understand the importance of mentoring our state's youth toward earning a college degree with a goal of securing a career in health care," said Gary L. Yates, TCWF president and CEO. "Programs and support systems are needed to ensure the success of

thousands of students who will be able to deliver culturally competent, language-proficient

health care."

**Guillermo J. Camacho**

Dr. Guillermo J. Camacho makes it a priority to give back to the community that helped him achieve his goal of becoming a dentist. While a student at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Camacho participated in the Science Educational Enhancement Services (SEES) program, which promotes diversity among students in the College of Science and encourages first-generation college students to pursue careers in the sciences. He continues to be involved in the SEES program as a speaker and role model to underrepresented students interested in health careers. He is currently a neuromuscular cosmetic dentist with his own practice, Sunset Dental Professionals, in West Covina.

"I believe that many high school students get discouraged from pursuing careers in the health professions or never find out that it is an option," Camacho said. "Sometimes we listen to people who try to knock us down. I have learned that anything is possible if you focus on your goals and dreams."

**Shirley Flores-Muñoz**

Dr. Shirley Flores-Muñoz founded and serves as program director of Pathways to Health Careers, a program at Cabrillo College organized to recruit and support underrepresented and first-generation college students who pursue health careers. In the last five years alone,

Pathways to Health Careers has encouraged more than 3,000 students to engage in health-related subjects and activities. She is also a professor of women's studies and history at the college.

"We must encourage that learning curiosity. We need to be more inclusive in order to allow students to participate fully in our economic system," Flores-Muñoz said. "We need to teach them for the benefit of social equity and social justice. They need something that sustains their hope and raises their expectations."

**Tomás A. Magaña**

A passionate advocate for health workforce diversity, Dr. Tomás A. Magaña has dedicated himself to helping youth empower themselves to pursue careers in health care. Magaña was deeply affected by the lack of diversity he experienced throughout his medical training. In an effort to correct that, he co-founded the FACES for the Future program at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland (CHRCO) in 2000. FACES for the Future is a comprehensive program that prepares high school students from disadvantaged areas for entry into health careers through services such as internships, mentorship and psycho-social support. Magaña is also an attending physician of adolescent medicine at CHRCO and medical director of Alameda County's Juvenile Justice Center.

"Too many decisions are made without representation from our young kids," Magaña said. "Many of them have the answers. In fact, they're some of the brightest and the most insightful individuals in our community. Any service designed to serve young people—and especially our most at-risk—must incorporate their voices."

The California Wellness Foundation is a private independent foundation created in 1992, with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation has a Responsive Grantmaking Program that prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health, and work and health. It also responds to timely issues and special projects outside the funding priorities.

TCWF is one of the state's largest foundations. Since its first year of operation, TCWF has awarded 5,450 grants totaling more than \$685 million. Please visit TCWF's website at www.CalWellness.org or www.tcwf.org for more information, including a newsroom section devoted to the Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award and the three honorees. High-resolution photos are also available.