

Philippine News TODAY

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EDITORIAL

More needs to be done to Stop Asian Hate

As one of the two US states with the largest Asian-American communities – the other being New York – California has had to face the problem of attacks by hatemongers on the most vulnerable sectors of that community. This includes women, senior citizens, even children, who all have one thing in common – they were defenseless against usually larger bullies with an unknown axe to grind.

Thankfully, California has done much to try and solve the problem. More than most states, in fact. Governor Gavin Newsom is to be commended for his efforts.

But we must ask for more. The fight against Asian-hate is far from over and one of the most potent tools against this scourge is to provide funds to pay for the worthwhile projects put a stop to the vile acts.

The API Equity Budget provides those much-needed funds. This fund was set up two years ago and Governor Newsom deserves nothing but the highest praise for his meaningful programs to end acts of hate aimed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AKA the AAPI community. And yes, Filipinos and FilAms are part and parcel of this community.

As the original API Equity Budget will soon run dry, the good governor of our Golden State is proposing an additional allocation of \$10 million to add to the diminishing funds. This is quite well and good. The supplementary budget can go some way in facing the problem that continues to fester.

But we must agree wholeheartedly with the California Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, which is strongly urging an additional budget of \$50 million to the API Equity Budget.

We are certain that it is not only absolutely needed, but every cent will be money well spent.

We recall with hope in our collective hearts when Governor Newsom backed the Caucus and first launched the API Equity Budget with an initial \$166.5 million in July of 2021.

Its intent was to fund critical resources to counteract the surge in Asian hate. Little did anybody know that the seemingly random acts of hate would continue, almost certainly beyond the three-year lifespan of the fund.

It is for this reason that we ask for a greater supplementary budget from the governor's administration.

Much progress has been made in the two years that the API Equity Budget was first launched. For one, the broad Asian-American community has come to realize that they are in this together, that an attack on one community is an attack on all minority communities.

Then there are the victims, who may be permanently scarred by their experiences, but who at least have been able to avail of greater victim services than ever before.

In so many ways, ending Asian hate is a long and difficult war, and the funds provided by the API Equity Budget provides the ammunition to face the battles that continue to this day, practically unabated.

We are counting on our Governor Newsom to continue leading the way to end Asian hate. We are counting on you, sir.

Longtime volunteers define "Grand-Ager"

FOR decades-long community service in diverse fields, Aurea Ocampo Cruz, Conrad Gamboa, Cynthia Arnaldo Bonta, Perla Gange Ibarrientos, Peter and Estrelle Chan will receive commendation June 17 at the 14th annual "Our Family, Our Future" education program and resource fair organized by AL-LICE Alliance for Community Empowerment.

"We celebrate longevity and the meaningful ways our six pioneers continue working for the greater good even after they conclude their professional careers," announced Bettina Santos Yap, founding president of the all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 2003.

"We are all living longer, but unfortunately ageism is escalating," she added. "Recognizing our Grand Agers is our way of rejecting age discrimination because, as our honorees prove, we get better with age."

BETTER WITH AGE

AFTER completing 12 years advising the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on issues facing older adults as a member of the County Commission on Aging, Aurea Ocampo Cruz, 91, continues to lead the Legion of Mary at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Colma, California. She oversees planning meetings, parishioner visits particularly to the sick, and responding to the spiritual needs of the congregation.

The Cavite native effectively provides service 24/7, being in charge of the wellness and health program of her housing complex. She's the epitome of "charity begins at home" for she religiously visits her husband Ross Ocampo, 93, as he recovers at a rehab center for an accident that ended his own longtime volunteer work as a peer counselor.

CONRAD Gamboa, 81, found his vocation at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South San Francisco, his parish since 1986. He had attained his doctor of dentistry degree from the University of the East in Manila when he brought his wife Linda and their daughter to this country in 1972. After briefly practicing his profession, he joined California Pacific Medical Center, where he worked for nearly three decades.

The Gamboas are pillars of the parish Small Christian Community and FilAm Society. Recently La Union-born Conrad, a eucharistic and hospitality minister, was lauded for his ongoing 35 years as a Knight of Columbus, including a year as Grand Knight.

ACTIVIST, organizer and mobilizer Cynthia Arnaldo Bonta, 85, keeps on going since the 1960s, marching alongside icons of Filipino American empowerment in the California heartland.

Founder of the Philippine National Day Association kindling Filipinos' quest for higher education with scholarships, she is mindful of her beginnings, having laid the proverbial foundation for the City Sistership between her adopted home city Alameda and Dumaguete City, where she was born, raised and began her ministry.

Two years ago she organized Filipino American Progressives to consolidate state then national efforts to support progressive Filipino and Asian American electoral candidates.

Lately she has been collaborating with Latinx leaders to build the Larry Itliong Resource Center as a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Valley Empow-

(Continued on page 26)

Righting history

In 2021, my good friend, Dr. Potenciano "Bon" Malvar, published a book entitled "Limasawa Hoax: A Tragedy in Philippine History."

In his *Obra Maestra*, Bon detailed the reasons and proofs buttressing his contention that Butuan, not Limasawa, was the true site of the first Catholic Mass on Philippine soil.

Bon dedicated his book to his wife, Lulu Comcom Malvar, who sadly passed away due to an aneurysm in October, 2021.

The book was the product of extensive research over a period of five years, during which Bon traveled to Spain, Portugal, Italy and the United States to verify facts, get proofs to bolster his stand.

How could this error in history have happened?

I personally blame Philippine politics for it, for it all began in 1959, when Congress passed RA 2733, a law sponsored by Leyte Congressman Nicanor Yniguez, while those concerned weren't looking.

The law declared Limasawa to be the official site of the first Easter Mass in the Philippines. It was passed hurriedly, with many irregularities, such as no ocular visits to the site, with just a few Congressmen present.

Over six decades later, thanks to Bon Malvar, the authenticity of Limasawa as the true site of the first Catholic Mass on Philippine soil was questioned. Other Butuanons had tried to raise the question earlier, but failed to get the authorities to listen. They did not, however, go to the lengths that Bon has taken to make the proper authorities consider the case.

Last April, I learned that Bon had gone to Lisbon, Portugal to continue his quest for truth, his impossible dream. He went there to secure an authentic April 19, 1521 order of King Charles to Ferdinand Magellan "to conceal (guize) m his trip to the Spice islands," *(Continued on page 27)*



CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO





Senator Dave Min Condemns Hate-Filled Flyers Targeting LG-BTQ+ And Jewish Communities In Huntington Beach

(HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA) - Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine) released the following statement to vehemently condemn the reprehensible distribution of hate-filled flyers targeting the LGBTQ+ and Jewish communities in Huntington Beach neighborhoods. The latest in a series of anti-Semitic flyers, the incident follows a pattern of hate-filled rhetoric that has led to banning the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag at local municipal buildings and a new surge in anti-LGBTQ+ hate incidents reported throughout Orange County.

“Early this morning, residents in Huntington Beach woke up to find their doorsteps adorned with flyers spewing messages of hatred and intolerance. I am deeply disturbed by this blatant act of hate targeting HB’s LGBTQ+ and Jewish residents. It’s such cruel irony that during a time meant for celebrating LG-BTQ+ Pride Month, the actions of a repugnant few continue to define Hunting-

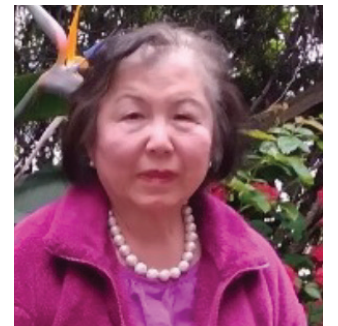
ton Beach as a place that is unwelcome to diversity, inclusion, and tolerance. If we are going to repair the reputation of Surf City, now is the time to look at the root problems that are driving this crisis of hate.

As an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, I urge Huntington Beach residents to disavow the toxic hate that has made its way from the dais in City Hall to yet another doorstep in our community. Now is the time to make clear that our community loudly denounces hate and that LGBTQ+ and Jewish people are welcome, valued, and safe here.”

If you received flyers with hate and/or anti-Semitic messaging, or need to report any hate incidents or crimes, please contact the Huntington Beach Police Department at 714-960-8825. You may also text OCHATEACTIVITY to 898211 or fill out an online form at: hatecrime.211oc.org.

Upside...

(From Page 11)



LONGTIME volunteers Aurea Cruz, Conrad Gamboa, Cynthia Bonta, Perla Ibarrientos, Peter and Estrella Chan define meaningful longevity.

ment Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the legacy of Larry Itliong Jr., who believed that working in solidarity with Cesar Chavez, Mexican and Yemeni farmworkers was the only way the strike for collective bargaining and an agricultural union could be possible.

Bonta is mother to achiever children: mental health/sports performance specialist Lisa B. Sumii, diversity, equity and inclusion blogger Marcelo Bonta, and California’s first FilAm elected to the State Legislature, now the first male Asian American Attorney General in California history - Rob Bonta.

EVERYONE’S “Ninang” or godmother Perla Gange Ibarrientos, 88, is a co-founder of the Filipino Democratic Club of San Mateo County, Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center and Filipino Mental Health Initiative - cornerstones of her home city’s empowerment efforts.

She is PBRC board chair, Daly City Personnel Commissioner and founding member of the Daly City Task Force on Age Friendly Communities formed in 2019 to ensure the independence and wellbeing of older adults wherever they decide to reside.

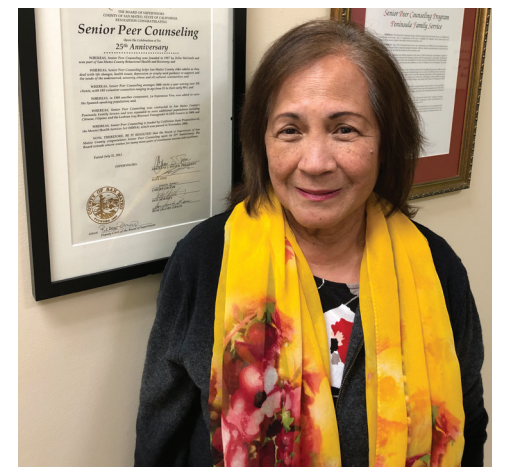
The former pharmacist from Iloilo and her husband of 58 years Mig Ibarrientos are proudest of their children Glenn, retired US Air Force Major and Director of Public Health Nurses of San Mateo County; Joy Ann Daffern, Executive Vice President of John Wells Production Hollywood, and Gladys Smith, Assistant CEO of San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association.

PARISHIONERS of Star of the Sea in San Francisco expect to see Peter and Estrella Chan at every activity in the church where they have been ministering since the 1980s.

The couple’s service began when their twin sons Palmer and Petrel attended the parish school. Estrella, who will be 80 next year, has been presiding over the FAASTAR Filipino American Association of Star of the Sea Church for 15 years. They raise funds and “motivate parishioners to participate in building a friendly and stewardship community” while “introducing Filipino culture,” says Peter, 88.

The Chans have honored their church commitment through their unimaginable grief in 1994 when Petrel was killed in a hit-and-run on 19th Avenue in San Francisco. The tragedy drew an outpouring of support from their parish and beyond, intensifying the couple’s devotion to serve.

SAFETY TIPS, RESOURCES
Set for the week commemorating World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the event will also address the unabated hate crimes against Asians as a result of being scapegoated for the spread of COVID 19. Dr. Jei Africa, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director of San Mateo County Health System, will give safety tips for people who witness or experience hate attacks.



TESSIE MADRINAN, Filipino peer counseling program coordinator at Peninsula Family Services, will present simple ways to empower older adults. Photo by CMQUEROLMORENO

In collaboration the City of South San Francisco, Positively Filipino, Philippine News Today and San Mateo Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, ALLICE is presenting the free and open to the public event in person for the first time since the pandemic shelter in place mandate.

San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa will give the keynote remarks at the event at 2-4 pm, Saturday, June 17, at the South San Francisco Municipal Services Building. Former Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo, founder of Angat Buhay, a PH-based nonprofit volunteer movement to uplift Filipinos, will deliver a message encouraging the bayanihan system.

Tessie Madrinan, coordinator of Peninsula Family Service Filipino Peer Counseling program, will present the 9 Acts of Kindness to Empower Older Adults.

Twenty-five family resource providers will be present to consult on their programs and services. The A-List, ALLICE’s free resource directory underwritten by the Town of Colma, will be distributed.

Refreshments will be served and free raffle will be drawn immediately at the end of the program compliments of donor allies led by Lucky Chances, Moonstar, Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, Classic Bowl, FilAm Cuisine 2, Fort McKinley and Serramonte Center.

For more information visit www.ALLICEKumares.com. – Adapted from the original reprinted with permission from INQUIRER.NET.

PNews Today Executive Editor Cherie M. Querol Moreno is Founder-Executive Director of ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment.

County of Alameda Public Auction/Public Sale of Surplus Property

Property: 1150 & 1220 Harbor Bay Parkway Alameda, CA
Auction/Sale Date: Monday, July 10, 2023

Time: 11:00AM

Bid Packets and Deposits – Due Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 by 4:30PM

Contact: DCG Strategies at (925) 479-1350

Specifications regarding the above may also be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

6/22/23

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