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THE VALLEY'S GUIDEPOST OF INFORMATION FOR FILIPINOS

VOL. 21 No. 874 SEPT 21-OCT 4, 2026

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## PALACE KEEPS MUM ON IMPEACHMENT VOTING THRESHOLD TALKS

MANILA, Sept 17 (Mabuhay) -- Malacañang on Wednesday declined to weigh in on the voting threshold for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, saying it will leave the matter to the Senate.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the Marcos administration would not issue an opinion or judgment on whether the threshold should be based on all 24 senators or only those qualified to participate in the proceedings.

"Sa parte po ng administrasyon, sa parte po ng Pangulo, hindi po kami magbibigay ng anumang opinyon, ng anumang judgment patungkol po diyan (On the part of the administration, on the part of the President, we will not give any opinion or judgment on that)," Castro said in a Palace briefing.

"Hahayaan po natin ang Senado na siyang mag-determine kung ano sa palagay nila ang nararapat (We will let the Senate determine what it believes is appropriate)," she added.

Castro's remarks came after reporters asked whether the opinions of former Supreme Court justices could persuade senator-judges on the issue.

She cited former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s view that only senators qualified to vote should participate in determining the outcome, based on his reading of the 1987 Constitution. Davide was among the framers of the Constitution.



Former chief presidential legal counsel Atty. Salvador Panelo answers questions from the media during an ambush interview on March 11, 2025.

Ryan Baldemor / The Philippine STAR

According to Castro, Davide's position is that senators who are no longer covered by the Senate should not participate because they would not be qualified to vote, meaning the threshold should not necessarily be based on all 24 senators.

Castro, however, stressed that the President would not intervene in determining the threshold.

"Kung ano po ang magiging threshold, hindi po makikialam ang Pangulo patungkol diyan (The President will not interfere in determining what the threshold will be)," she said.

She added that the administration's

only concern is that justice prevails, adding that the government remains focused on serving the public.

The conviction threshold has become a contentious issue as some senators missed the majority of the trial, including Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, who is in hiding for being wanted by the International Criminal Court for his role in former president Rodrigo Duterte's brutal drug war.

Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Rodante Marcoleta, meanwhile, are currently in detention over plunder cases, while Senator Loren Legarda is on medical leave. (MNS)

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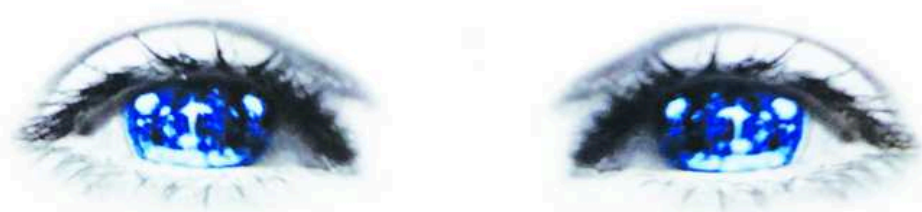
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## DAVIDE: IMPEACHMENT VOTE BASE SHOULD ONLY COUNT QUALIFIED SENATORS

MANILA, Sept 17 (Mabuhay) -- The two-thirds threshold in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial should be computed from senators legally and physically qualified to cast a vote, rather than automatically from the Senate's full 24-member roster, retired chief justice Hilario Davide Jr. said Wednesday.

The Constitution provides that no impeached official may be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all Senate members.

Davide laid down the position in a memorandum read into the Senate impeachment court record as senator-judges heard amici curiae on the meaning of "all the Members of the Senate" under Article XI, Section 3(6) of the Constitution.

As one of the framers of the delegates of the 1971 Constitutional Convention who drafted the 1973 Constitution, and one of the Commissioners of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 who drafted the 1987 Constitution, Davide said there was no debate on this subject.

"It was presumed and assumed that when the Constitution mentioned 'two-thirds' of all the Members of the Batasang Pambansa in the 1973 Constitution and of the Senate in the 1987 Constitution, or three-fourths of all the Members of the Senate in the 1935 Constitution, the word MEMBERS refers to living persons who are not suffering from any mental, physical or health conditions, which render them incapable of exercising their powers or performing their duties as senators, or who are prohibited to do so by reason of some legal restraints or impediments," he said.

"This is the spirit of the provision. It could not be otherwise. Any interpretation to the contrary would defy reason, logic and common sense; tolerate an absurdity; and perpetuate an injustice," he stressed.

He said the framers of the Constitutions of 1935, 1973, and 1987 could never have intended to include in "All Members" Senators in a given Congress those who have resigned or have been expelled; those who suffer from any mental infirmity; those who are suffering from any physical incapacity; those who cannot participate in the hearings and deliberations on the impeachment such as those who are outside the jurisdiction of the Philippines, or whose whereabouts are unknown or in hiding to avoid arrests; and those who by reason of some legal impediments or restraints, cannot exercise or perform their rights and privileges as a public official or, more specifically, as a Senator.

Davide said the last group include those who are charged in court for plunder, and those who are facing criminal charges in court or have been convicted

ed and are serving their sentence.

"Clearly then, the basis of computing the two-thirds must be the number of senators who are qualified to vote, not the 24 in the present Senate," Davide said.

Supreme Court jurisprudence has previously recognized that election to the Senate does not by itself free a detained lawmaker from the restrictions of detention.

In Trillanes IV v. Pimentel, the high court dealt with then-senator Antonio Trillanes IV's request to leave detention to attend Senate sessions and perform legislative functions.

The case, however, did not involve impeachment or determine how a detained senator should be counted in an impeachment voting threshold.

As to whether or not a senator-judge who did not attend or substantially participate in the impeachment proceedings may cast a vote on the final question in an impeachment trial, Davide said each senator-judge must be guided by the Oath of Office he or she took as a Senator-Judge.

"Accordingly, a Senator-Judge who did not attend any session of the Court for any reason whatsoever or who never acted or performed the duties as a Senator-Judge must be deemed to have never participated in the performance of the duties as such," he said.

Davide said he or she should belong to the category of those who are outside the jurisdiction of the Philippines or in a foreign country or one whose whereabouts are unknown.

"As to those who did not substantially participate in the impeachment proceedings, the undersigned leaves this matter to the conscience and sense of duty to those involved," he said, emphasizing that judges are to be present at all times and to listen to and reflect on the testimonies of witnesses. (MNS)

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# EX-JUSTICES MAP SAFEGUARDS FOR DETAINED, ABSENT SENATORS IN VP TRIAL

MANILA, Sept 17 (Mabuhay) -- Former Supreme Court magistrates on Wednesday laid out possible safeguards to keep detention or absence from distorting the final vote in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, ranging from remote participation and legislation, to clearer rules separating Senate membership from the right to vote.

The proposals surfaced as Senator-judge Joel Villanueva pressed the amici curiae, or friends of the court, on how the Senate could avoid two opposite outcomes —senators effectively blocking conviction by staying away, or a majority lowering the threshold by excluding members who cannot participate.

"No senator should be able to manufacture a veto by disappearing. But no majority should be able to manufacture a conviction by deleting opponents from the denominator," Villanueva said.

Retired Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna maintained that a senator remains part of the denominator as long as he or she continues to hold office, regardless of whether the senator can actually cast a vote.

He said the denominator would shrink only upon death, resignation or removal from office, drawing a line between membership in the Senate and the separate right to participate in the impeachment judgment.

To prevent detention from leaving a senator counted but unable to vote, Azcuna suggested that Congress could enact a law ensuring that detained senators are allowed to participate in impeachment proceedings.

"One way of remedying that is to pass a law saying that anybody, any senator who is detained may still participate in the proceedings," he said.

The suggestion comes as detained senators currently need permission from the Sandiganbayan to attend Senate sessions or the impeachment trial.

Retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno, meanwhile, said detention itself need not necessarily shut a senator-judge out of the proceedings.

He raised the possibility of allowing a detained member to follow testimony

electronically, receive transcripts and perform impeachment duties without physically appearing in the Senate.

"They can see the witnesses testifying. They can be provided with the transcripts," Puno said, describing whether such arrangements may be allowed as an "open question."

Puno also pointed to past instances in which detained individuals were permitted by courts to temporarily perform another public function, including participation in peace negotiations, as a possible basis for giving the issue a "second look."

Retired chief justice Artemio Panganiban agreed that detention does not erase a senator's membership, saying a detained legislator remains a senator unless he resigns or is expelled.

But Panganiban separated membership from the more difficult question of whether a senator who missed the proceedings should be allowed to judge the evidence.

He said an impeachment court performs a trial function, where senator-judges are expected to personally assess witnesses and their credibility rather than rely solely on transcripts and records.

"The Senate acting as an impeachment court is a trial court because you want to know the truth firsthand," Panganiban said.

Villanueva said the competing views had turned what he previously considered a straightforward constitutional requirement into a question requiring deeper examination.

He said he had long viewed the two-thirds requirement in impeachment, treaty concurrence and other constitutional votes as clear, but the explanations of the former chief justices prompted him to reconsider how "all the Members of the Senate" should operate when some members cannot perform their duties.

Panganiban ultimately reminded the senator-judges that the dispute should not be reduced to legal arithmetic, saying the proceedings must also answer the public's demand for justice, while Puno underscored the respondent's right to an impartial tribunal. (MNS)

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**PALACE URGES SEPT. 21 RALLY PARTICIPANTS TO KEEP PROTESTS PEACEFUL**

MANILA, Sept 17 (Mabuhay) -- Malacañang on Wednesday urged participants in the planned Sept. 21 rallies to keep their demonstrations peaceful and orderly, stressing that Filipinos have the right to voice their grievances.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. does not prevent or hinder citizens from expressing their views through peaceful assemblies, but appealed to protesters to avoid violence.

“Karapatan ninyo po ang magsalita, karapatan ninyo po ang manawagan, huwag na lang po sana maging marahas (You have the right to speak, you have the right to make calls and appeals, but please do not be violent),” Castro said in a Palace briefing.

“Karapatan naman po ninyo na manawagan ay para madinig kung ano ang nais ninyong ipadining at makarating sa ating pamahalaan (It’s your right to make appeals, to make what you want to say be heard and reach the government).”

Castro said the Philippine National Police (PNP) is prepared for the Sept. 21 demonstrations, while the government continues to address alleged irregularities in flood control projects.

“Handa po ang ating kapulisan sa darating na Sept. 21 (Our police are ready for Sept. 21),” she said.

The planned rallies come a year after anti-corruption demonstrations on Sept. 21, 2025, which were largely peaceful but were marred by violent incidents near Malacañang in Manila.

Police reported clashes, property damage, and arrests during disturbances near Mendiola and Ayala Bridge as protesters attempted to enter Malacañang compound.

Aside from throwing stones, paint, and other objects at police officers, the masked protesters also destroyed public and private properties, such as stoplights and a center island. They also burned the tires of a container van and motorcycles owned by the police, threw Molotov bombs, and ransacked a motel along Recto Avenue.

Castro also responded to calls by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) for Marcos to resign, saying the group should explain the basis for its demand.

She cited the administration’s actions against alleged corruption in flood control projects, including the filing of cases after authorities reviewed evidence.

Castro said the government would continue to respect the public’s right to protest while calling on participants to exercise that right peacefully and within the law. (MNS)

**ROMUALDEZ PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO PLUNDER CASE**

MANILA, Sept 17 (Mabuhay) -- Former House Speaker Martin Romualdez on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to the plunder charge against him before the Sandiganbayan.

During the proceedings via videoconferencing, the anti-graft court turned down the defense’s plea to postpone the lawmaker’s transfer from the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital in Manila to the Quezon City Jail, or to transfer him to a government hospital in Quezon City.

The Sandiganbayan on Sept. 7 or-

dered Romualdez’s arrest along with fugitive former Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co and two others for their alleged part in a scheme involving kickbacks amounting to PHP7.44 billion from parties in government flood control projects.

The defense said they plan to ask for bail for Romualdez’s temporary liberty while the case is pending.

Also pending before the anti-graft court is the matter of Romualdez’ preventive suspension from public office. (MNS)

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By: Doris Lacson Bauer



# Nevada’s Rural Nursing Workforce: Growth Amid Challenges

Nevada’s nursing workforce has expanded substantially over the past decade, yet rural communities remain **underrepresented** and continue to face significant challenges in recruitment, retention, and access to care. According to the Nursing Workforce in Nevada – 2025 report, the number of registered nurses (RNs) statewide increased from **21,563 in 2014 to 33,875 in 2024** —a **57.1%** rise. RN density also improved, growing from **762.3 to 1,029.8 per 100,000 residents**. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) saw even more dramatic growth, increasing **289%** (from 901 to 3,507), while licensed practical nurses (LPNs) grew **22.2%** during the same period.

Despite these gains, growth has been concentrated in urban regions —particularly Clark County, which added nearly **10,000 RNs** over the decade. Rural counties experienced slower or modest increases, reflecting long-standing supply gaps and uneven workforce distribution.

The Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book reports that **7.3% of Nevada’s population**—within a statewide population of roughly 3.18 million—lives in nonmetro areas. Rural healthcare infrastructure includes **13 Critical Access Hospitals, 19 Rural Health Clinics, and 1 Federally Qualified Health Center**, according to the Rural Health Information Hub. These facilities rely heavily on nursing staff, yet recruitment and retention remain persistent challenges.

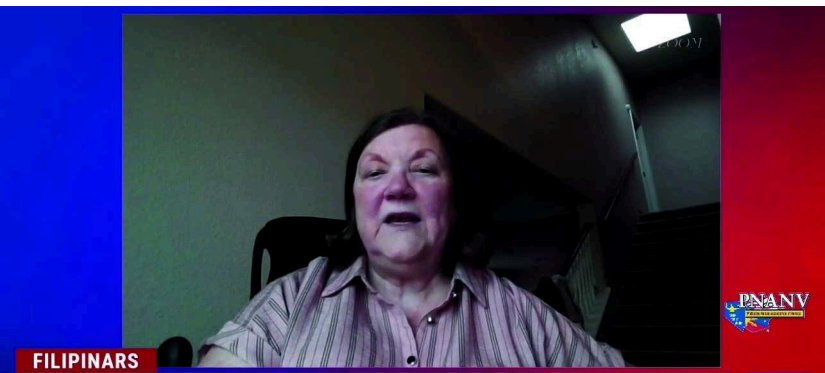
## RURAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN NEVADA

Nevada’s rural regions span **17 counties with populations under 100,000**, where geographic isolation intensifies healthcare inequities. Rural residents experience higher rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease, limited emergency services, and ongoing provider shortages—conditions shaped by the state’s **80% urban–rural** divide in healthcare resources.

Impending Medicaid policy changes further threaten the stability of rural healthcare systems. Critical Access Hospitals—already operating with thin margins—face potential financial strain that could lead to service reductions or closures. Such disruptions ripple through local economies, contributing to job losses and weakening community health infrastructure.

As identified by the Rural Health Information Hub, the **Key Rural Nursing Challenges** Include:

- **Workforce shortages** — Rural counties often have fewer RNs per capita than urban centers, with some reporting chronic vacancies or high turnover.
- **Recruitment and retention** — Smaller job markets, long travel distances, and limited professional development opportunities contribute to ongoing attrition.
- **Access to care** — With few clinics and hospitals, rural residents depend heavily on nursing availability for timely and continuous care.



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### State Support and Initiatives

Nevada continues to invest in programs that bolster rural healthcare access, workforce development, and long-term provider retention. The Nevada State Office of Rural Health (SORH) and the Office of Statewide Initiatives at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine play central roles in delivering technical assistance, recruitment support, and statewide coordination through Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), Flex, and SHIP programs. These efforts—highlighted by the Rural Health Information Hub—aim to stabilize the rural healthcare workforce and strengthen care delivery in underserved regions.

**Nevada State Office of Rural Health (SORH)**

Key Functions of SORH are:

- **Technical assistance** — Workshops, training, and resource dissemination tailored to rural facilities
- **Recruitment and retention** — Support for connecting healthcare professionals with rural practice opportunities
- **Workforce development** — Programs that cultivate future providers through education, mentorship, and rural rotations
- **Community support** — Partnerships with hospitals and clinics to address local workforce needs

Access to healthcare in Nevada’s rural and frontier counties continues to be shaped by limited resources, geographic isolation, and technological gaps. For this reason, strengthening the pipeline of healthcare professionals—including medical students, residents, nurses, and physicians—is a top priority for SORH.

### CMS Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program: A Catalyst for Revitalizing Rural Healthcare

Another Initiative is the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program . It marks one of the most significant federal investments ever made to strengthen rural healthcare in the United States. Authorized under Section 71401 of H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21), the program dedicates \$50 billion over five fiscal years (2026–2030)—with \$10 billion available annually—to help states address longstanding disparities in rural health access, quality, and outcomes. All 50 states, including Nevada, submitted applications by November 5, 2025. CMS recently announced **Nevada’s first-year award of nearly \$180 million** by more than **300 stakeholder contributions**. Priorities include chronic disease prevention, infrastructure flex funds, workforce grants, and technology-driven innovations.

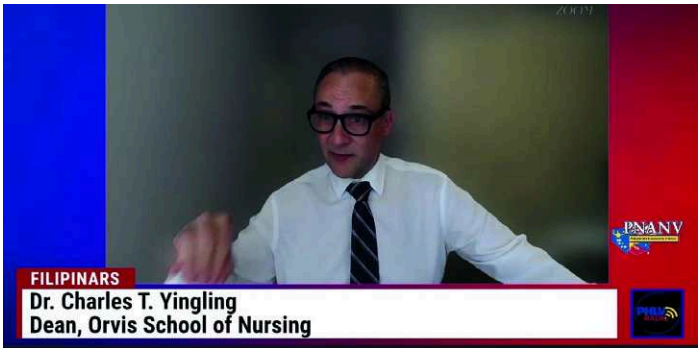
For Nevada—where more than 20% of residents live in rural and frontier areas characterized by vast geography, limited resources, and high chronic disease burdens—the RHT Program represents far more than a funding stream. It is a strategic opportunity to strengthen economic resilience, modernize healthcare infrastructure, and stabilize the rural workforce.

The RHT Program aims to transform rural healthcare ecosystems through state-driven strategies aligned with five core goals:

- **Preventive innovation** to improve population health
- **Sustainable access** to essential services
- **Workforce development** to address provider shortages
- **Innovative care models** that expand service delivery
- **Technology adoption** to increase efficiency and reach

The CMS Rural Health Transformation Program stands as a powerful opportunity to reshape rural healthcare nationwide. For Nevada, it is an essential tool for embedding health equity into the state’s broader economic and workforce strategy. With approximately **\$180 million in annual investments**, the program’s success will depend on coordinated execution across agencies and communities, but its promise is clear: **a healthier rural Nevada strengthens the entire state**. By transforming healthcare from a cost burden into an economic engine, the RHT Program ensures that no community is left behind.

Recently, **FilipiNars** featured the Status of the Rural Nursing workforce. The guests invited to discuss this topic were: **Dr. Charles Yingling**, Dean of the Orvis School of Nursing, **Dr. Stephanie DeBoor**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of the Orvis School of Nursing and **Dr. Victoria Squier**, President of the Nevada Nurses Association (NNA) District 1 and a Board Member of the PNLV – Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada. These esteemed Nurses discussed the current status of Nursing in the Rural areas of Nevada. They talked about the aforementioned topics: Nursing statistics, key challenges of Nursing in the rural areas, current State support and initiatives and the role of Orvis School of Nursing of UNR (University of Nevada – Reno) in educating new nurses about nursing roles in Community and Rural Nursing.



**FILIPINARS**  
**Dr. Charles T. Yingling**  
Dean, Orvis School of Nursing

Dr. Yingling and Dr. DeBoor are very much instrumental in making sure that the Orvis School of Nursing collaborate with SORH in their projects. They are also responsible for the Nursing Program. Dr. DeBoor authored the initiatives presented to the Nevada Health Authority for funding. The initiatives are:

1. **Rural APRN expansion.** This means partnering with rural clinics and hospitals to look at rural access, create preceptorship that can be on line and assuring that the participating clinic has the proper equipment for the preceptorship.
2. **APRN Fellowship.** Are there any APRNs or FNP’s in the rural areas who can benefit from being dual certified in FNP and as Psychiatric mental health practitioner. Recruited participants’ tuition will be paid for and will be given a stipend while completing the program.

Orvis is waiting for final approval of the grant.

Dr. Victoria Squier has recognized the immense need to improve the status of Rural Nursing. As the President of NNA District 1, she spoke about the involvement of the Nevada Nurses Association (NNA) in actively supporting rural nursing through advocacy, education and events. She is in the process of becoming a PMHP – Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner and start her practice to include Mental Health for the rural areas. *(The entire FilipiNars podcast on Rural Nursing can be accessed through PHLV Radio Facebook and other Social Media platforms).*

### CONCLUSION

Improving rural nursing in Nevada is not simply a professional priority—it is a moral and community imperative. Rural nurses remain the backbone of healthcare delivery across vast regions of the state, often serving as the first and only point of care for thousands of Nevadans. Strengthening this workforce requires intentional investment in **education access, leadership development**, modern technology, and sustainable support systems that honor the unique challenges of rural practice.

As Nevada continues to grow and diversify, the future of rural healthcare will depend on our ability to cultivate adaptable, confident, and well-prepared nurses who can lead in environments where resources are limited but community needs are great. Collaborative partnerships among academic institutions, professional organizations, and state leaders will be essential in

building pathways that not only recruit nurses to rural areas but empower them to stay, thrive, and lead.

Ultimately, improving rural nursing is about more than workforce numbers—it is about ensuring equity, dignity, and access for every community in Nevada. By committing to long-term strategies that elevate rural nurses, the state can move toward a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that serves all Nevadans, regardless of geography.



**FILIPINARS**  
**RURAL NURSING IN NEVADA**  
A PODCAST FROM THE PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA



By: Elizabeth de Leon-Gamboa, MSN ed, RN, CPHQ, CCM, CMCN, ICNA

Healthy Fil-Am Nayon (HFAN) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of Filipino Americans in Nevada. HFAN recognizes that wellness is influenced not only by individual choices, but also by family relationships, culture, access to information, and community support.

Through its Holistic Wellness Program, the organization addresses physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. The program engages individuals, families, and the broader community while responding to the concerning prevalence of cardiometabolic illness among Filipino Americans through culturally appropriate health promotion, disease prevention, and personalized care.

On September 12, 2026, Saturday, HFAN hosted Kapihan #3, a coffee social and educational seminar titled **“Your Best Years Ahead: Essential Resources for Seniors on Health, Wealth, and Wellness.”** The event was held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Emerald and Ruby Rooms at UMC Delta Point.

The program brought seniors, families, community leaders, and service providers together in a welcoming, community-centered setting. Its goal was to help attendees make informed decisions about health, finances, and overall wellness as they plan for the years ahead.

# HEALTHY FIL-AM NAYON KAPIHAN #3: SUPPORTING SENIORS THROUGH HEALTH, WEALTH, AND WELLNESS



Experts shared information and experiences in their respective fields. Anna Ladao of Humana presented Medicare 101, health coverage, enrollment, and future healthcare planning. Edwin Balecha of Palm Mortuary discussed final expenses, including the importance of pre-planning and the financial challenges families may face when arrangements are made at the time of need. Dr. Aury Nagy of Nevada Brain and Spine addressed dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Geraldine Inciso discussed SNAP, TANF, and other social services, while Lisa Galan explained the Explanation of Benefits and Medicare assistance.

Attendees also enjoyed a continental breakfast and fellowship. Lions Club Northwest and Los Prados provided free eye screenings, the Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada offered blood-

pressure checks, and Japer Ellena provided massages. The morning’s discussions connected Medicare and social services with Social Security benefits, retirement planning, final expenses, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and personal wellness. Together, these topics encouraged informed conversations about health, financial preparedness, and future planning.

HFAN gratefully acknowledges its Board of Directors, volunteers, community supporters, and participating organizations, including Caremax, Lions Club, UMC, Transamerica, PAAN, Total Swiss, Activate Home Health, Richard Harris Law, FinFit Life, Humana, Champions of Hope, 7-Eleven, Judge Bill Henderson, GSG Sounds and Graphics, and Realty of America.



Leaders from NAFFAA, PAAN, UPAAN, FACAI, ECHO, CMSA NV, FAPA, FAPRNA, and the Office of Governor Joe Lombardo’s Southern Nevada Outreach also participated.

One attendee shared: **“Ben and I left feeling informed, reassured, and truly cared for. Every presenter spoke to us, not over us, and that made all the difference.”**

Kapihan #3 demonstrated HFAN’s continued commitment to empowering Filipino American seniors and families through accessible education, culturally responsive support, and meaningful community connections.



The Nasyon Whisperer is brought to you by the Healthy Fil-Am Nayon Organization whose goal is to promote the health and welfare of the Filipino Americans in Nevada. This column will make suggestions on the importance of a Holistic approach when dealing with health and wellness. For more information, please visit the website at [www.healthyfilamnayon.org](http://www.healthyfilamnayon.org).





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# The Still Point

By Jasminemarie Soller, LMT, NVMT#11598



## CLINICAL BODYWORK • RECOVERY • HOLISTIC WELLNESS

By Jasminemarie Soller, LMT, NVMT#11598  
Don't Forget to Hydrate This Winter in Southern Nevada

When most people think about dehydration in Southern Nevada, they picture blazing summer temperatures, triple-digit heat, and the constant need for a water bottle. But staying hydrated is just as important during the winter months. Even though the weather feels cooler and more comfortable, the desert's dry climate doesn't take a break. Many people become mildly dehydrated in winter simply because they don't feel as thirsty as they do in summer.

### Why Winter Dehydration Happens

In hot weather, your body gives clear reminders to drink water. Sweating, thirst, and fatigue. Winter is different. Cooler temperatures can trick you into thinking you don't need as much water. Meanwhile, the desert air continues to pull moisture from your body all day long. Add indoor heating to the mix, and you may lose fluids without realizing it. Dry skin, chapped lips, scratchy throat, or unexplained tiredness can all be signs of inadequate hydration.

### Your Body Still Needs Plenty of Water

Water plays a vital role in every system of your body. Regulating temperature, aiding digestion, transporting nutrients, and keeping joints lubricated. Even mild dehydration can affect mood, concentration, and energy levels. During winter, your body still loses water through breathing and perspiration, especially in heated environments. If you're active outdoors, skiing, hiking, or walking, you'll need even more fluids to stay balanced.

### Signs You Might Be Dehydrated

- Dry mouth or lips
- Headaches or dizziness
- Fatigue or irritability
- Dark-colored urine
- Muscle cramps

If you notice these symptoms, it's time to increase your fluid intake. Don't wait until you feel thirsty. Thirst is a late indicator that your body is already dehydrated.

### Smart Hydration Habits for Winter

**Start your day with water.** Drink a glass first thing in the morning to rehydrate after sleep.

**Keep a bottle nearby.** Having water within reach reminds you to sip regularly.

**Warm it up.** Herbal teas, warm lemon water, and broths count toward your daily hydration goals.

**Eat water-rich foods.** Fruits like oranges, melons, and vegetables such as cucumbers and lettuce help replenish fluids.

**Balance of caffeine and alcohol.** Both can deplete hydration, so pair them with extra water.

**Moisturize inside and out.** Hydration supports skin health; combine water intake with a good moisturizer.

### Hydration and Health in the Desert

Southern Nevada's desert climate is unique because its humidity often drops below 30%, and the air pulls moisture from your skin and lungs. Even in cooler months, the body loses water through respiration. Staying hydrated helps maintain circulation, supports kidney function, and keeps your immune system strong, especially all crucial during cold and flu season.

### How Much Water Do You Need?

The general guideline is about **eight 8-ounce glasses per day**, but individual needs vary. Factors like activity level, diet, and environment matters. If you exercise, spend time outdoors, or consume caffeine, you'll need more. A good rule of thumb: your urine should be light yellow. If it's darker, drink more water.

### Hydration Beyond Water

Hydration doesn't have to mean plain water all the time. Soups, smoothies, and fruits contribute to your daily intake. Coconut water and electrolyte drinks can help if you're sweating or exercising. Just watch for added sugars; natural options are best.

### Tips for Families and Seniors

**Children** often forget to drink water, especially when playing indoors. Encourage regular sips throughout the day.

**Older adults** may have a reduced sense of thirst. Setting reminders or keeping water visible can help maintain hydration.

**Pets** also need fresh water daily, dry winter air affects them too.

### Hydration and Skin Care

Winter dryness can make skin feel tight or flaky. Hydration supports elasticity and helps your skin recover from exposure to cold air and indoor heat. Combine internal hydration with external care, use gentle cleansers, avoid overly hot showers, and apply moisturizer while skin is still damp.

### Staying Hydrated While Active

If you're hiking Red Rock Canyon or walking the Strip, bring water even in cool weather. Physical activity increases fluid loss, and desert air accelerates evaporation. Sports drinks can help replace electrolytes, but water remains the best foundation for hydration.

### Think about it

Hydration isn't just a summer concern; it's a year-round necessity, especially in Southern Nevada's desert climate. Cooler temperatures may disguise your body's needs, but water remains essential for energy, focus, and overall health. Make hydration a daily habit this winter: sip often, eat hydrating foods, and listen to your body's subtle signals. Your skin, mood, and energy will thank you.

**Jasminemarie Soller, LMT**, brings more than 29 years of heart-centered experience to her work as a Las Vegas-based licensed massage therapist. Rooted in a deep respect for the body's innate wisdom, her practice blends clinical bodywork, recovery, and whole-person wellness with a holistic understanding of the connection between body, mind, and spirit. With experience across athletic, holistic, medical, and educational settings, she is certified by the California Massage Therapy Council and licensed in Nevada. Jasminemarie teaches at Mikhail Education Corporation's Personal Fitness Trainer program, serves as an Allied Health instructor, and is the Director of the Massage Therapy/Reflexology program at Advanced Training Institute. She is active in AFMTE, ABMP, and AMTA, where she serves on the AMTA Nevada Chapter board. As a Certified Community Health Worker, consultant, and entrepreneur, she is devoted to helping people reconnect with their bodies, cultivate self-awareness, and approach healing as a sacred, embodied practice. Her column, "The Still Point," reflects that calling by exploring traditional healing, modern recovery, and mindful self-care.





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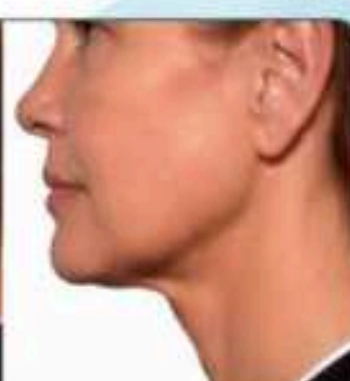
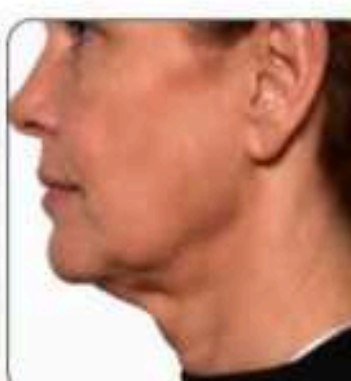
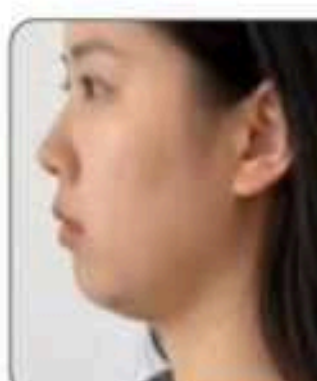


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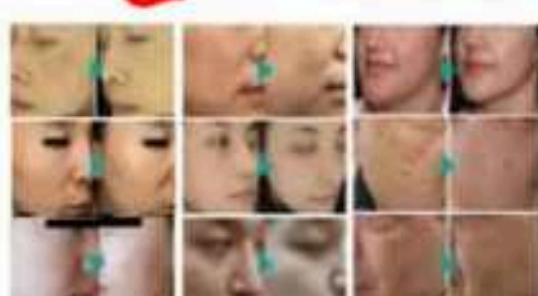
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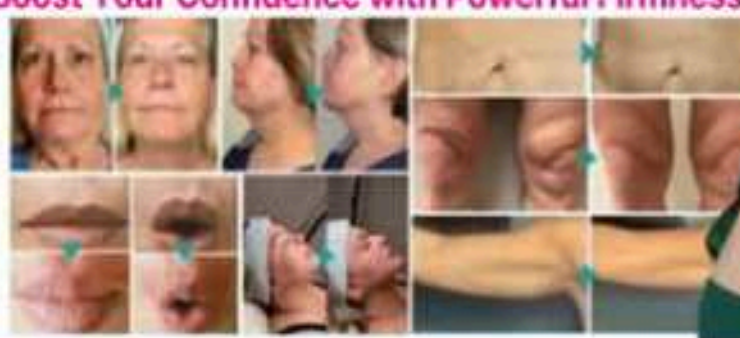


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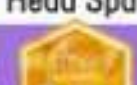
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## MEDICINE AND MUSIC

For sixty centuries, medicine and music have come together, like a mixture of tinctures, to soothe and heal people, with roots tracking back to prehistoric times.

As early as 4000 BCE, priest-physicians in Egypt and Mesopotamia called music “physic for the soul.” Ancient Chinese culture intrinsically linked the two fields, medicine and music. By the 6th century BCE, historical figures like Pythagoras, Plato, and Aristotle formalized music’s clinical application.

Modern neuroscience today utilizes advanced brain-imaging and cardiovascular studies to prove what our ancestors always knew: music actively lowers blood pressure, stabilizes heart rates, and triggers biochemical changes necessary for deep healing

Today, we are blessed not only with medicine and music, the sound, but with physicians and surgeons of various subspecialties, who are polymaths, music virtuosos in concerts at night, physician-surgeons providing medical care or doing surgery during the day.

The 100-men-and-women physician-musician ensemble is popularly known as the World Doctors Orchestra (WDO), an independent non-profit humanitarian association, which made its debut in May 2008, with an inaugural concert in the Berlin Philharmonie.

Their membership includes 2000 physicians from 60 countries around the world. One hundred of them perform as a team at each concert they do. All proceeds are donated to local charities in the country and city where they perform. As of 2025, WDO has donated more than 2 million euros (\$2.321 million US dollars) to medical charities. It has performed 48 concert sessions around the world.

### Proud of WDO

My family and I were privileged to attend the Chicago 2026 Charity Concert of the World Doctors Orchestra at the Wentz Concert Hall in Naperville, Illinois, on September 11, 2026, as the United States remembered the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers in New York and honored the heroes in that soul-devastating national catastrophe.

As physicians ourselves, my wife, Farida, daughter Sheillah, her husband Tony, and our son, Felipe, Jr., together with some of our close friends, were all deeply proud of our 100 colleagues performing marvelously like professional musicians at this concert and its conductor, Stefan Willich, who himself is also a physician.

They rendered each symphony with flawless and magnificent precision, truly an architectural masterpiece for each piece. Yes, physicians and surgeons, displaying their musical talent with synchrony and perfection.

Among the symphonies they played were Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s Russian Easter Overture, Aaron Copland’s Lincoln Portrait, Florence Price Concert Overture No. 2, and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Symphonic Dances, op. 45.

Closing my eyes once in a while during the concert, I felt as though I was listening to the Royal Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, the Berlin Philharmonic, or the Vienna Philharmonic, with my novice, uninitiated ears.

### A collective genius

The amazing, unparalleled ability of the World Doctors Orchestra to blend dozens of unique instrumental voices into a single breathtaking harmonious soul is the pinnacle of human collaboration, where individual virtuosity surrenders to collective genius, instantly transporting the listener into a world of profound emotion, timeless beauty, and cognitive clarity and psychological wonders.



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### What taxpayers can expect:

Taxpayers may select someone to represent them in an interview. This could be an attorney, certified public accountant, or enrolled agent.

Any attorney, CPA, enrolled agent, enrolled actuary or other person permitted to represent a taxpayer before the IRS, who’s not disbarred or suspended from practice before the IRS, may submit a written power of attorney to represent a taxpayer before the IRS.

### Taxpayers who retain representation don’t have to attend with their representative unless the IRS formally summons them to appear.

In most situations, the IRS must suspend an interview if the taxpayer requests to consult with a representative.

Taxpayers have the right to seek assistance from a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic if they can’t afford representation. They can find a LITC near them by visiting the Low Income Taxpayer Clinics page or by calling the IRS toll-free at 800-829-3676.

LITCs are independent from the IRS and the Taxpayer Advocate Service. These clinics represent individuals whose income is below a certain level and who need to resolve tax problems with the IRS. LITCs can represent taxpayers in audits, appeals and tax collection disputes before the IRS and in court. In addition, LITCs can provide information about taxpayer rights and responsibilities in different languages for individuals who speak English as a second language. Services are offered for free or for a small fee.

## WORLD DOCTORS ORCHESTRA



Each of the 100 physicians pays WDO 400 euros (\$465 US dollars) as a session fee, uses their own funds for air travel, hotel, and other expenses, bring their own musical instrument, except for the large ones, like the cello, bass, and tuba, which WDO rents for each concert. Indeed, a rare breed of compassionate men and women who care for and inspire their fellowmen and make this world healthier, happier, and more wonderful.

Although all of the physicians share a passion for music, the driving force behind WDO is the conviction that neither national borders nor political or economic interests should limit access to adequate healthcare. With its series of charity concerts, WDO strives to raise global awareness that healthcare is a basic human right and a precondition for human development. An impressive conviction and goal for the betterment of mankind.

We were particularly proud of my 56-year-old nephew, Joel Chua Ang, MD, a Family Medicine specialist from Washington, DC, who is a founding member of WDO and a violinist with this humanitarian group. The Chicago concert was his 39th WDO concert. They will perform in Manila at the Solaire Casino-Hotel on February 27, 2027, and proceed to Hong Kong with the Asian Doctors Orchestra Concert (an offshoot of WDO) on May 2nd, then to Venice and Verona, Italy, for the 56th Concert session, October 8-12, 2027.

For Taipans, individual donors, and philanthropists interested in supporting this 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity international humanitarian program, please email: [office@world-doctors-orchestra.org](mailto:office@world-doctors-orchestra.org)

For direct online donation for donors in the Philippines only, kindly use this link: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QP5R5WF3>

*Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, a Cardiac Surgeon Emeritus based in Northwest Indiana and Las Vegas, Nevada, is an international medical lecturer/author, Health Advocate, newspaper columnist, and Chairman of the Filipino United Network-USA, a 501(c)3 humanitarian foundation in the United States. He was a decorated recipient of the Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 1995, conferred by then Indiana Governor, later Senator, and then presidential candidate, Evan Bayh. Other Sagamore past awardees include President Harry Truman, President George HW Bush, Muhammad Ali, Astronaut Gus Grissom (Wikipedia). Websites: FUN8888.com, Today.SPSAtoday.com, and philipSchua.com Email: scalpelpen@gmail.com*



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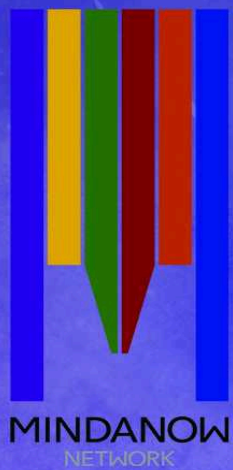
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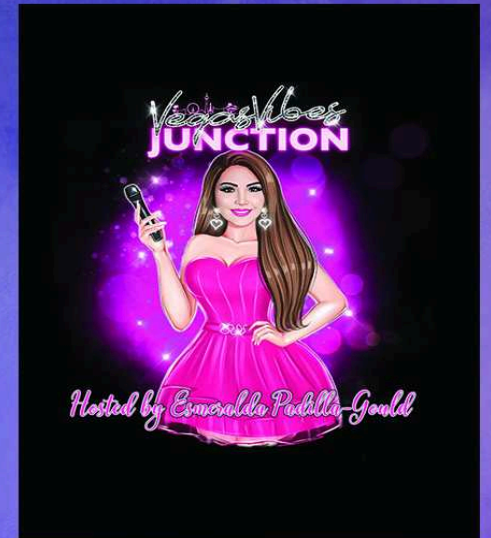
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# Opisina ng Kaligtasang Pantrapiko

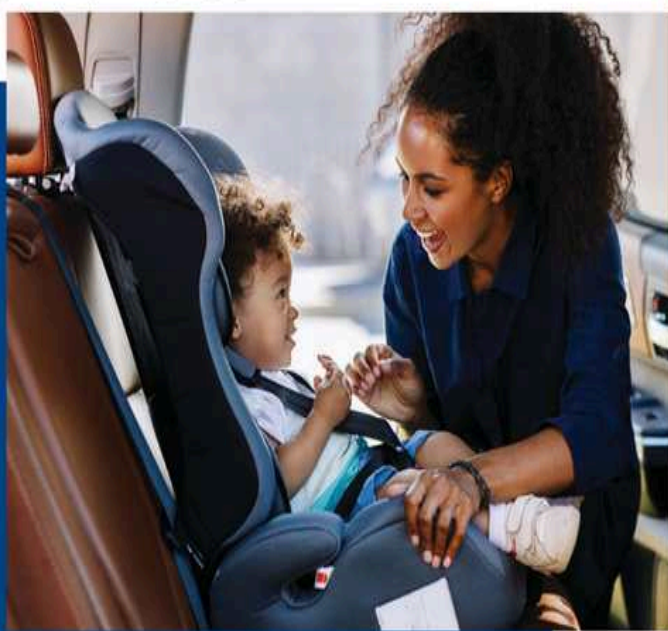
## MGA PROGRAMA

### MISYON

Bawasan ang bilang ng pagkamatay at pinsala sa mga kalsada sa Nevada upang ang mga tao ay makauwi ng ligtas.

### PROGRAMA SA PROTEKSYON NG MGA NAKASAKAY SA SASAKYAN AT KALIGTASAN NG MGA BATANG PASAHERO

Ang programang ito ay nagtataguyod ng kahalagahan ng tamang paggamit ng mga seatbelt, child restraints, at ang kanilang interaksyon sa mga supplemental airbag restraint habang nagbibigay ng kaalaman sa mga batas ng Nevada tungkol sa proteksyon ng mga pasahero.



### IMPAIRED DRIVING

Tatlong pangkalahatang aspeto ang bumubuo sa programang Impaired Driving sa Nevada: pagpapatupad, pagpapasya, at pagsisikap sa pagbibigay ng kaalaman. Ang layunin ng programa ay ang pagbawas ng mga pagkamatay at malubhang pinsala na resulta ng impaired driving sa mga kalsada ng Nevada.

## MGA REKORD NG TRAPIKO AT FATAL ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEMS (FARS)

Ang pangongolekta at pagsusuri ng datos ng aksidente ay ang unang hakbang sa pagbabawas ng mga aksidente at pagkamatay sa kalsada. Ginagamit ang nakolektang datos ng FARS para bumuo ng mga epektibong programa para sa kaligtasan sa highway.



## KALIGTASAN NG MGA NAGMOMOTOR

Ang programa ng Nevada Rider Motorcycle Safety ay pinopondohan ng mga miyembro ng Nevada's motorcyclist. Ang programang ito ay nag-aalok ng license waiver at advanced rider courses. Nagbibigay din ito ng pagsasanay para sa mga instruktur at suporta sa media campaigns upang itaguyod ang ligtas na pagmamaneho.

## MGA GUMAGAMIT NG KALSADA NG WALANG PROTEKSYON

Ang programang ito ay nagtuturo sa mga drayber at sa mga pedestriyan ng tungkol sa ligtas na paglalakbay sa kalsada ng Nevada at nagbibigay kaalaman sa publiko sa pamamagitan ng mga community events na nakatuon sa kaligtasan ng mga pedestriyan at nagbibisikleta para sa lahat ng edad.

## ZERO FATALITIES PROGRAM

Programang edukasyon at pagpapalaganap ng kaligtasan sa trapiko sa buong estado na naglalayong makamit ang layuning Zero Fatalities sa mga kalsada ng Nevada.

## ZERO TEEN FATALITIES (ZTF)

Ang mga aksidente sa kotse ang pangunahing sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga tinedyer sa U.S. Ang programang ZTF ay tumutulong sa pag-suporta sa edukasyon sa pagmamaneho at nagtuturo sa mga batang drayber ng tungkol sa kaligtasan at ang kahalagahan ng mga batas ng Nevada's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), na tumutulong sa mga kabataan na makakuha ng karanasan sa pagmamaneho nang ligtas.

## JOINING FORCES

Isang programa sa pagpapatupad ng batas na sumasaklaw sa maraming hurisdiksyon na nagtataguyod ng pagpapatupad sa buong estado at nagtuturo sa mga gumagamit ng kalsada ng tungkol sa ligtas na pagmamaneho.

## IBA PANG MGA PROGRAMA:

Maraming iba pang mga programa na may kaugnayan sa highway safety ang ibinibigay ng NDPS Office of Traffic Safety, ilan sa mga ito ay:

- Pagbuo ng mga koalisyon para sa kaligtasan ng komunidad
- Pagpapalaganap at edukasyon sa komunidad



Para sa kumpletong listahan ng mga sponsor ng programang NDPS Office of Traffic Safety, bisitahin ang aming website sa [www.ots.state.nv.us](http://www.ots.state.nv.us)

**zero**  
**Fatalities**  
*Lives are on the Line*



**ZTF**  
**zero teen Fatalities**



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Office of Traffic Safety

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[www.ots.state.nv.us](http://www.ots.state.nv.us)



Opisina ng  
Kaligtasang  
Pantrapiko



Austin Beaumont: CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DEPT 8

Austin Beaumont is a nonpartisan candidate for District Court Judge in Department 8 of Nevada's Eighth Judicial District Court. His professional background includes criminal prosecution, civil litigation, appellate work, judicial research and private-sector management. Clark County's official candidate list identifies Beaumont and incumbent Judge Jessica K. Peterson as the two candidates appearing in the 2026 general-election contest. Judicial elections are nonpartisan, leaving voters to assess qualifications, experience, temperament and conduct for themselves.

Beaumont grew up in several Western states, including Washington, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. He says that moving frequently taught him to listen, adapt and connect with people from different backgrounds. He describes service, problem-solving and team building as recurring themes throughout his career.

He currently serves as a Chief Deputy District Attorney in Clark County's Major Fraud Unit, where he handles complex cases involving fraud, financial crimes and major investigations. His earlier legal experience includes working in the District Attorney's Appeals Unit and serving for four years as a judicial law clerk for two Eighth Judicial District Court judges. He also completed externships with the Nevada Division of Insurance and the U.S. Attorney's Office Organized Crime Strike Force.

According to his campaign biography, Beaumont's work as a judicial law clerk included reviewing motions, researching legal questions, evaluating evidence, analyzing competing arguments and helping prepare judicial orders. He says this experience gave him direct exposure to how judges manage serious civil and criminal matters. It also required consideration of public safety, constitutional rights, fairness and accountability.

Before beginning his legal career, Beaumont worked in hotel management and supervised operations in Washington and Oregon. During the Great Recession, he helped manage hotel properties facing difficult economic conditions. According to Beaumont, this experience strengthened his ability to assess organizational problems, make decisions under pressure and remain accountable for results. He has described patience, practical problem-solving and respect for colleagues as lessons carried from hospitality into public service.

Beaumont earned an Associate of Arts in Business Administration from North Idaho College and bachelor's degrees in General Management and Human Resource Management from Eastern Washington University. He later received his Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho College of Law.

While attending law school, he served as chief managing editor

of the Idaho Law Review and received its Outstanding Editor Award. He was also recognized for pro bono service, volunteered with a Youth Accountability Board and earned Dean's List honors.

His listed endorsements include District Attorney Steve Wolfson, retired Judge Donald Mosley, the Clark County Prosecutors Association, law-enforcement and veterans organizations, and labor groups including the Southern Nevada Building Trades Union and LiUNA Local 872. Endorsements reflect the views of the endorsing individuals and organizations and are one part of the information voters may consider.

Beaumont says he would bring his experience in law, management and public service to the District Court bench. His candidacy gives voters an opportunity to compare his background, stated judicial philosophy and professional record with those of the incumbent when considering the responsibilities of Department 8.--

ENDORSEMENTS

- PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE OF NEVADA
- THE THIRD BRANCH NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE WOLFSON
- RETIRED JUDGE DONALD MOSLEY
- CLARK COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
- CLARK COUNTY MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
- VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL
- NEVADA VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- ARMED FORCES CHAMBER
- NEVADA POLICE UNION
- LAS VEGAS POLICE MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- LAS VEGAS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- LAS VEGAS PEACE OFFICER SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- LAS VEGAS PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
- PEACE OFFICER RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA
- SPARKS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- RENO POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- CARSON CITY SHERIFF'S SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION
- WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION
- WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
- DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- HENDERSON POLICE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION
- SOUTHERN NEVADA BUILDING TRADES UNION
- LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA (LIUNA) LOCAL 872

TRIAL LAWYER ★ UNION MEMBER ★ CULINARY WORKER ★ BUSINESS LEADER



ELECT

Austin Beaumont

FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

★ DEPT. 8 ★

TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY - VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD!





# NEWS IN PHOTOS *with Kuya Sol*

**Sol Felipe D. Llasos** - PRO of: FAMAN - Filipino Americans Media Association of Nevada • Historian of the NaFFAA State - National Federation of Filipino American Associations and the US-Filipino Veterans Group of Las Vegas • PRO- Balayan Las Vegas Asso. • Adviser/Founder of SILVAK Society of Ilongos in Las Vegas Abyan kag Kasimanwa • BOD of PACF Philippine American Charity Foundation. To be featured please email [solying@yahoo.com](mailto:solying@yahoo.com) or call 702-336-0753. Message Facebook/Messenger - Sol Felipe Llasos. For more community news and photos, visit his Facebook Page: Philippine Times of Southern Nevada News in Photos. and Las Vegas Filipino Community News in Photos.



## MANILA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC. ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION AND REUNION CULMINATED WITH A FUNDRAISING GALA NIGHT AT SUN COAST HOTEL & CASINO

SUN COAST HOTEL & CASINO, September 6, 2026. Manila Central University (MCU) Medical Alumni Foundation Inc., held their Annual Scientific Convention and Reunion and culminated with a Fund Raising Gala Night. A day earlier, the group held their Meet & Greet Dinner & party at Queenbridge Clubhouse of Las Vegas. The scientific convention was attended by MCU alumni from some parts of the country, guests coming from other parts of the world and MCU administrators directly from the Philippines. Among the resource person are: Benjamin Jose Quito, MD with his virtual lecture from the Philippines, Gilbert Taguba, MD, virtual lecture from New York, and live speakers: Jacob V. Aranda, MD, PhD and Leonidas Voltaire Mejia, MD. Moderated by Victor Sunga, MD. The topics presented included the drugs and its development and use for human consumption, the use of AI in Medicine and latest updates on Cardiology. Highlights of the gala night were the citations presented to various personas, contributors, fund donors and important guests, Induction of new set of officers, the selection of Ms. MCUMAF, Inc., photo ops aside from special numbers and dancing. Local Filipino community leaders: Marlon Borja Multo, Bikolnon association leader who hosted the event and facilitated the music for the night, Olympia Ramones, president of the Ilocano Association of Nevada, who chaired the beauty contest selection process, and Edna White, Alumna and officer of PAAN Philippine American Association of Nevada.



## CEREMONIAL LIGHTING AT LAS VEGAS CITY HALL TO LAUNCH FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — The Filipino American community is set to officially begin its celebration of Filipino American History Month with a Ceremonial Lighting ceremony on October 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Las Vegas City Hall. The special event will mark the commencement of this year's Filipino American History Month celebration and will bring together members of the Filipino American community, community leaders, supporters, and guests in recognition of Filipino American heritage, history, and contributions. Attendees are requested to arrive 30 minutes before the 6:00 p.m. ceremony to allow sufficient time for check-in and preparation. Guests are encouraged to observe the designated attire for the occasion: Filipiniana, honoring the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Philippines. The National Federation of Filipino American Associations-Nevada (NaFFAA-NV) invites the community to join this meaningful occasion and celebrate Filipino American history and culture together. "We look forward to celebrating this event with you," said Dr. Michael Stajuana, President of NaFFAA-NV. The Ceremonial Lighting will serve as the opening event for a month dedicated to recognizing the history, achievements, culture, and continuing contributions of Filipino Americans.

**Our Heritage. Our People. A Stronger Tomorrow.**

**FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**  
OCTOBER 2026

# Attention ALL KABABAYAN!

Friends and Family • Community Leaders  
You're Invited!

Let's come together for a **COMMUNITY PHOTO OP** to kick off Filipino History Month! Our Las Vegas City Hall will be lit **RED** in recognition and celebration of the Filipino American community.

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2026** **6:00 PM** **LAS VEGAS CITY HALL**  
495 S. Main Street, Las Vegas, NV

Please come in Filipino attire or cultural dress for our photo op!

*See you there, Kababayan! ♥*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Dr. Mike Stajuana 725-321-4648  
Sally Balecha 702-596-3231

**NaFFAA NEVADA**  
UNITY • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

*Stronger Together Always*

### OCT. 3 FIESTA FILIPINO UPDATE

**NaFFAA-Nevada**  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations  
Clark High School Chapter

## Congratulations! Isela Suarez

**Reyna Elena 2026**  
and  
Founding President  
Clark High School NaFFAA-Nevada School Chapter

A native of Clark High School, Isela brings energy, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to leadership and community service. She has a proven track record in various leadership and organizational roles, and is dedicated to making a positive impact on the community.

Please join us in congratulating Isela Suarez on being crowned **Reyna Elena 2026** and in celebrating her accomplishments as a student officer, community advocate, and founding member of the Clark High School Chapter.

*Dr. Michael Stajuana*  
President, NaFFAA-NV

## AIDA QUIRAY

**Reyna Emperatriz**

**Many Faces, One Community, One Celebration**

### REPRESENTING USA, JOYCE PONIO AWARDED "BEST ICON STYLE" AWARD AT BEST MODEL OF THE UNIVERSE 2026 PAGEANT IN SPAIN

Las Vegas beauty queen, Ms. Senior Fil-Am Nevada USA 2024, Joyce Ponio won the Best Icon Style at the Best Model of the Universe 2026 competition held at Lloret de Mar, Spain. In her social media post, Ponio wrote: Winning the 'Best Icon Style' award is proof that when you put in real work, you walk in victory.





# NEWS IN PHOTOS *with Kuya Sol & Doc Mike*



TID BITS ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FILIPINO AMERICANS COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

## PANGASINAN ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA HOLDS INDUCTION

By Dr. Michael Stajuana

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Pangasinan Association of Southern Nevada recently celebrated its new leadership during an induction ball held September 5 at the Ahern Hotel in Las Vegas. The formal gathering brought together members of the Pangasinan community, Filipino American leaders, guests, and supporters for an evening celebrating fellowship, service, and the organization's continuing commitment to the Filipino American community in Southern Nevada. The guest speaker for the occasion was Consul General Adelio Cruz of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, who joined community members in recognizing the organization and its newly installed officers. Newly installed President May Ann Henderson expressed her appreciation to the Filipino American community for its continued support. She thanked the organization's members, families, community leaders, and supporters whose contributions help strengthen the association and its programs. The induction ball marked a new chapter for the Pangasinan Association of Southern Nevada as its new leadership begins its term of service and community engagement. The celebration also highlighted the strong bonds among Filipino Americans in Southern Nevada and the importance of preserving cultural heritage, promoting unity, and supporting community initiatives.



## CAVITE ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL BINGO RETRO 70's & 80's FUNDRAISER

By Dr. Michael Stajuana

NEVADA — September 2026 — The Cavite Association of Nevada extends its heartfelt appreciation to all the sponsors, donors, volunteers, members, and supporters who helped make its Bingo Retro 70's & 80's Fundraising Event, held on September 12, a tremendous success. The event brought together members of the community for an enjoyable evening filled with nostalgic 1970s and 1980s music, entertainment, camaraderie, and, of course, exciting games of bingo. The Cavite Association of Nevada expressed its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, resources, and generosity to support the fundraising effort. The organization emphasized that the success of the event would not have been possible without the collective efforts of its sponsors, donors, and dedicated volunteers. Their continued support demonstrates the strength and unity of the community and helps the Cavite Association of Nevada continue its programs, activities, and service to its members. The Cavite Association of Nevada thanks everyone who helped make Bingo Retro 70's & 80's a memorable and successful celebration. Mabuhay and maraming salamat po!



## MARIA DEL MAR SOCIETY CELEBRATED AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

A great celebration by the Maria Del Mar Society for their August celebrants was held at the residence of Dr. Maritess & Ed Princer last August 22, 2026.





MAYA TWEETS

BY MAE P. BARROS-WAYNE



THE GREAT MONSOON

(HABAGAT) CHAOS

Just last week, my father sent me a text: “The rain is without let-up and the two middle spans of the old bridge were washed away.”

Every year right on schedule, the monsoon rains sweep into the Philippines and instantly turn the entire country into a giant waterpark everybody dreaded and nobody asked for. Students, office workers, jeepney drivers, call center agents, even the neighborhood dogs all brace themselves for the annual wet-and-wild adventure. It usually starts with a drizzle. A small, innocent drizzle. The kind that makes you think, “Ay ambon lang!” But Filipinos know better. That drizzle is just the opening act. Give it ten or more minutes and suddenly the sky decides to reenact the Great Flood, complete with thunder that sounds like someone dropped a refrigerator from the 10th floor of a building.

STUDENTS: THE FIRST CASUALTES

When I was vacationing, there was a landline telephone call from a young student, thinking she called her school number. “Sir, do we have class today?” To which my father answered “No class today. Stay home!” Imagine the joy of the student to know she has a day off from school! During the rains, students are always the first to suffer. One moment they’re happily eating kwek-kwek outside the school gate, the next moment they’re wading through knee-deep water like contestants on Survivor: Edsa Edition. Uniforms are soaking, socks floating, notebooks turning into papier-mache. The classic monsoon chaos. The funniest part? Classes are never suspended early enough. The announcement always comes after everyone has left home and is already drenched. So students end up doing the traditional Filipino rain dance: One hand holding their bag above their head, the other hand clutching their phone or ipad wrapped in plastic while their entire body is soaked like sponge. My brother Rench went through that walking a lengthy portion of EDSA.

OFFICE WORKERS: THE DAILY WET COMMUTE WARRIORS

Office workers, meanwhile, transform into Olympic athletes. They sprint from jeepney to MRT station, leap over puddles the size of Laguna Lake (I’m joking!), and dodge umbrellas wielded like medieval weapons. By the time they reach the office, they look like they swam to work. Inside the buildings, everyone pretends nothing happened. Hair dripping. Shoes squishing. Pants two shades darker from rainwater. But they still sit down, open their computers and say “Good morning po,” as if they didn’t just survive a natural disaster.

TRANSPORTATION: THE ULTIMATE COMEDY SHOW

Transportation during monsoon season is a national performance art. Jeepneys become boats. Tricycles become amphibious vehicles. Buses become saunas filled with damp passengers.. And of course there’s the legendary “traffic caused by baha,” a phrase common it might as well be printed on official government stationery.

The MRT and LRT? They either slow down, stop or decide to take a personal day. Commuters stand shoulder-to-shoulder, praying the train doesn’t suddenly transform into a giant air-conditioned aquarium.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: THE GREAT DISAPPEARING ACT

My sister Marjo always complains about “low signal or no signal “ from either Globe or Smart during the rainy season. When storms hit, telecommunications behave like dramatic telenovela characters - strong at first, then suddenly fainting

PUTTING THE “FUN” IN PANGASINAN

Hans Christian Andersen famously said that to travel is to live. Indeed, this act leaves you speechless and then turns you into a storyteller!

Saint Augustine would agree as he famously said “the world is a book, and those who do not travel, only read one page.”

Indeed, traveling is a marveling thing capable of making the soul soar and opening the mind to places it has never known possible.

Here in our beloved country the USA, which I am very blessed to travel a lot, I realize that it will take me a lifetime to explore every single town, city or state!

Thankfully, my work allows me to go to many different places, like most recently in Michigan where I reveled in the Yemeni cuisines which Dearborn is known for and of course I was part of a meaningful and unforgettable production in Detroit that celebrated excellence in various endeavors, most especially in fashion and business.

But there is a special kind of travel that allows us to venture to places vicariously ~ through events and activities that promote celebrated cities!

Recently I got the honor of serving as master of ceremonies for the Pangasinan Association of Southern Nevada as they inducted their new officers, led by their new president, Ms. May Ann Henderson and Vice Presidents Emie Aribon and Dante Ulanday.

It was a night that saw the resilience, creativity and commitment of Filipinos to growth, enterprises and other worthwhile endeavors taking it beyond the Philippines!

The night was a success and it feature Honorable Consul General of the Los Angeles Consulate, Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, whose mother is a proud Pangasinense.

Congratulations to the newly inducted officers and Mabuhay! We look forward to greater things from the Pangasinan Association of Southern Nevada (PASN).

without warning. So much like politicians who suddenly disappear, wear neck braces or are on wheelchairs when they get impeached or are in legal trouble. Signal disappears. Wi-Fi collapses. Data slows down to prehistoric levels. Filipinos end up holding their phones up in the air (ala Simba in The Lion King) for one bar of signal. Sometimes, they go outside for that elusive one signal just to be able to send a message. “Ma, pauwi na ako. Baha dito!” The message sends three hours later, or is received when the sender has already arrived home. Aysus!

DAILY LIFE: THE MONSOON OLYMPICS

Everything becomes a challenge. Cooking? The power might go out. Laundry? Good luck drying anything. Grocery shopping? You’ll need a raft. Even simple tasks like crossing the street become heroic feats. You don’t cross, you swim. You don’t avoid puddles, you navigate them like a seasoned sailor.

SMILES AND STAMINA

Filipinos remain undefeated. They laugh, joke, post memes and take selfies with floods behind them. Because monsoon season, for all its chaos, is part of the Filipino soul. It’s a yearly reminder that despite storms, floods or baha and the occasional flying yero (galvanized iron roofing), Filipinos stay hopeful, warm and connected. Families gather indoors, cook food and share stories . Neighbors help each other move cars, lift furniture or rescue stranded pets. Strangers share umbrellas. Communities come alive

Monsoon rains may disrupt classes, delay commutes, drown roads, and knock out Wi-Fi, but they also reveal the Filipino superpower: the ability to turn calamity into comedy, inconvenience into bonding and storms into stories worth retelling. It’s more fun; Onli in da Pilipins!

online photos from google.com, philstar, philnews24.org, and reuters.



Ah, Mary Can Dream!

By Marylaine Louise L. Viernes

Award-winning Author / Journalist

Carlos Palanca Awardee & Professional Host/Emcee

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D-2 Philippine Times - Southern Nevada  
**JODI STA. MARIA PROUDLY CAMPAIGNS TO  
HELP END ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS IN THE  
PHILIPPINES**

MANILA, Sept 7 (Mabuhay) -- After accepting the role as a celebrity ambassador for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society starting last year, actress and animal lover Jodi Sta. Maria continues to her advocacy to help improve the situation of homeless animals in the country.

During the launch to end the NGO's new Homeless Not Worthless campaign, the well loved actress took the stage to encourage the public to open their hearts and rescue aspins off the streets.

"Sana po sa mga nandito ngayon sana ay you can adopt or rescue and make them feel safe and loved and valued. Sana po matingnan din natin sila. Maaaring karamihan sa kanila walang mga bahay pero hindi ibig sabihin na wala po silang kuwenta o wala silang halaga. Kasi sa totoo lang, yung mga rescue na furbabies, sa kanila mo talaga mararamdaman yung pinaka pinakamatamis na pagmamahal. And I think it's because that is their way of thanking us for the love that they have been given. That's my story (with my own rescues)," Jodi shared.

A staunch believer in advocating for better animal welfare in the country, Jodi explained why she is passionate about helping PAWS spread the word about their various campaigns. "It's very important because we want to be able to send a message out there na especially right now there is a growing animal homelessness crisis in the Philippines and gusto natin na maiparat-ing yun sa mga tao and make people aware that there is a crisis pero naman tayong nakikitang solusyon diyan. So ang nakikita nating puwede gawin diyan is to adopt, rescue, and ang pinaka importante, lagi ko talagang ina-advocate ito, ang pagpapakapon ng ating mga animals so that hindi na sila dumadami at hindi na tayo nakakakita ng mga animals sa street," she said.

When not busy with showbiz commitments as one of the most in demand actresses in the country, Jodi shared that she is perfectly happy spending time at home with her son Thirdy and the four animals she personally rescued off the streets. "Oh my gosh, isa akong simpleng ina pagdating sa ba-



hay. Ina ni Thirdy, ina ni Kuya Naia, Ate Lily, ni Zandro and ni Putol. I really spend a lot of time with them. Yun lang din talaga. And showering them with love and attention. That's how I spoil my fur babies. We spend a lot of time within the village so dun ang lahat ng bonding namin."

Jodi also wanted to highlight how loving local dogs can become, especially when they know they are being rescued and welcomed into a real home, stressing how it is always worth it to choose to adopt over buying a pet.

"I really don't have anything against animals with breeds, walang problema. But I really do hope lang na hindi natin nakikita na just because aspin sila is mas less yung kanilang value or mas less yung kanilang worth. Sa totoo lang, for me, yung mga pets na kagaya ng aspins na na-rescue at na-adopt especially, iba rin yung klase ng pagmamahal na binibigay nila kasi I truly believe that they understand and they're grateful for us choosing them and them also choosing us to be their fur parents. They just show you yung pinakasweet na kind of love na minsan kahit na ayaw mo na, andiyan pa rin talaga sila. Ibang klase ang loyalty din," Jodi explained.

For more information on the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and their Homeless Not Worthless campaign as well as how to adopt shelter aspin or puspín, just log on to www.paws.org.ph. (MNS)

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# A Moment of Eternal News

Sis Olive Manalo Karagdag



## THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST OVER UNCLEAN SPIRITS IS OURS TOO

Luke 4:31–37: 31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. 33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34 “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” 35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. 36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” 37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

An authority in Jesus to rebuke and to command unclean spirits. First, let’s see the meaning of authority. In the Bible, authority means the God-given right, power, and ability to command, lead, or act with rightful control.

In Luke 4:31–37, we can see the authority and power of Jesus Christ over unclean spirits. In our Gospel here, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when people were amazed because He speaks with authority even over the impure spirits that obey Him. While He was teaching, one man shouted and knew Him as the Holy One of GOD. And Jesus just simply says. “Be quiet! Come out of him!” and the impure spirit obeyed.

The truth that should be noticed here is that Jesus did not even fight hard to display His authority. Just through

His word, and nothing else, the devil obeyed.

What does it teach us?

First, Jesus has authority over every creature (Matthew 28:18). The evil spirit knew it well. He knew that Jesus is the Son of the Living GOD. This gospel reminds us that Jesus is the LORD and Almighty GOD. In Revelation Chapter 1, Jesus revealed in verse 8, that He is the Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, who is and was and is to come—the Almighty.”

Second, the authority of Jesus brought freedom for humans under slavery of evil ones.

Jesus did not use His power to impress the crowd. He used it to set a person free. Behind the miracle was a person who needed help, and Jesus cared enough to free him. He sees the person who is hurting, and He brings freedom and restoration.

Third, we need not to live in fear. There’s things in life that we can’t control like fear, worries, temptations, problems, or impossible situations. It reminds us where our confidence should be: in Jesus Christ. We should not focus on the power of darkness, but we should focus on the greater power of Jesus. When we cannot handle something, Jesus can. When we are afraid, Jesus is with us. When we feel weak, Jesus is our strength. And if we don’t know where to turn, we can turn to Him.

Luke chapter 4 reminds us that the authority of Jesus is not just something we read about in the Bible. It is a reason for us to have faith and confidence in Him every day, every time.

Jesus is greater, Jesus is Lord, and

His word has power. So whatever we may be facing, let us keep our eyes and trust in His authority. We should always remember that when Jesus speaks, even unclean spirits must obey. No one is above Him.

(Above sharing will be credited to my Aunt Millie Cunanan in her talk during our Prayer Meeting.)

### My add on to the glory of GOD

We are as disciples of Jesus Christ, have been given also the power over impure spirits. First, In Matthew 10, Jesus gave his twelve disciples authority. It says, “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.” Next, in Mark 16:17, Jesus said before ascending to the Father, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

It had been proven in the scripture how His disciples like Peter and Paul had delivered people from evil spirits (Acts 5:12-16). But we cannot just use the name of Jesus Christ to drive demons out. We must not only believe, but should have anointing from the Holy Spirit before anyone could exercise authority. Peter and Jesus’ disciples including women received the anointing in Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), while Paul received the anointing through Ananias in Act 9:17.

We must be cautioned in what had happened when Paul was in Ephe-

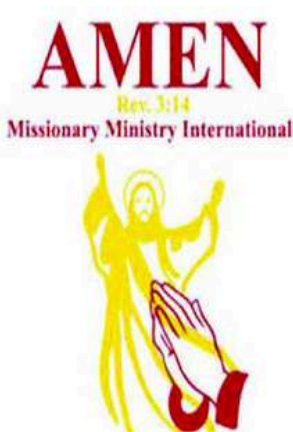
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In Acts 19:13-17, it has been reported; 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.”

We must know that when we desire to use this power, we have also the desire to give alone the glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. Then for sure we will receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in John 16 :14-15, 14 When The Holy Spirit comes, He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Only the Word of Jesus Christ has power, and we will be allowed to speak His Word to have the power. If we have the Spirit of Christ in us, then we have Christ in us, and we all can have the authority and power of Christ bestowed to all believers (Romans 8:9-11). AMEN



“And unto the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the AMEN, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of GOD”  
- Revelation 3:14

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GUARDIAN ANGEL CATHEDRAL</b><br>302 Cathedral Way, Las Vegas NV 89109<br><br>SAT : Vigil 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm<br>SUN: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am<br>MON-FRI: 8:00am, 12:10pm         | <b>SHRINE OF HOLY REDEEMER</b><br>55 E Reno Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm<br>SUN: 8am, 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm<br>4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)<br>MON-SAT: 12:10pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>CHRIST THE KING</b><br>4925 S Torrey Pines Dr, LV, NV 89118<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm<br>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am<br>1:30pm(SP) 3:30pm<br>MON-FRI: 8am                           | <b>ST. JOSEPH HUSBAND OF MARY</b><br>7260 W. Sahara Ave, LV NV 89117<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm<br>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 5:30pm<br>MON-SAT: 8am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b><br>2300 Sunridge Heights Pk, Henderson 89052<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm<br>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am<br>5:00pm Youth Ensemble<br>MON-SAT: 7:45am | <b>OUR LADY OF LAS VEGAS</b><br>3050 Alta Dr, LV NV 89107<br><small>WEEKEND MASS TIMES<br/>SAT: 4:00pm<br/>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 1pm (Polish), 5:30pm (Tagalog)<br/>12:00pm, 5:00pm<br/>DAILY MASS TIMES<br/>8:00am<br/>RECONCILIATION<br/>3-4pm Saturdays (you may also call the Parish Office to make an appointment with a priest)<br/>FIRST FRIDAY: 4:00am Mass with Holy Hour to follow<br/>FIRST SATURDAY: 1:00am Mass</small> |
| <b>ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON</b><br>1811 Pueblo Vista Dr, LV NV 89128<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm<br>SUN: 6:30am, 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm<br>4:00pm, 6:00pm<br>MON-SAT: 8:00am             | <b>ST. ANTHONY of PADUA</b><br>6350 N. Fort Apache Rd, LV, NV 89149<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)<br>SUN: 6:30am, 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm<br>MON-SAT: 8:30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>HOLY FAMILY</b><br>4490 Mountain Vista St, LV NV 89121<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4pm<br>SUN: 6am(SP)8am, 10am(SP)12pm<br>2pm(SP)5pm(SP)7pm<br>MON-SAT: 7:30am                               | <b>ST. FRANCIS DE SALES</b><br>1111 Michael Way, LV NV 89108<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)<br>SUN: 6:30am, 7:50am(SP)9:30am, 11am<br>1pm, 5pm, 7pm(SP)<br>MON-FRI: 7:30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>ST. ANNE</b><br>1901 S. Maryland Prky, LV NV 89104<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6pm(SP)<br>SUN: 6:30am(SP)8am, 10am(SP)<br>12pm, 2pm(SP)5pm, 7pm(SP)<br>MON-SAT: 7:30am                   | <b>ST. BRIDGET</b><br>220 N. 14St, NLV NV 89109<br><br>SAT: Vigil 5:00pm<br>SUN: 7am, 8:30am(SP)10am(LATIN)12pm<br>1:30pm(SP) 5pm(TAG) 7pm(SP)<br>MON-FRI: 7:30am SAT: 9:00am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ST. JOAN OF ARC</b><br>315 S. Casino Center Blvd, LV NV 89101<br><br>SAT: Vigil 5:00pm<br>SUN: 8am, 9:15am(POL)10:30am, 12:30pm<br>3:30pm(SP) 5pm<br>MON-FRI: 12:15pm               | <b>ST. CHRISTOPHER</b><br>1849 N. Bruce St, NLV NV 89030<br><br>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)<br>SUN: 6:30am(SP)8:30, 10:30, 12:30pm(SP)<br>2:30pm(SP)5:30pm(SP)7:30pm(SP)<br>MON-FRI: 8:30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>PRINCE OF PEACE</b><br>5485 E. Charleston Blvd, LV NV 89142<br>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6:30pm(SP)<br>SUN: 6am(SP), 8am, 10am12pm, 2pm(SP)<br>5pm(Youth) 7pm(SP)<br>MON-FRI: 8:30am          | <b>ST. THOMAS MORE</b><br>130 N. Pecos Rd, LV NV 90074<br>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm<br>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5:30pm(YOUTH)<br>MON-FRI: 8:30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>ST. VIATOR</b><br>2461 E. Flamingo Rd, LV NV 89121<br>SAT: Vigil 4pm<br>SUN: 8am, 10am(Youth)12pm, 5pm<br>MON-FRI: 6:45am 8:15am                                                    | <b>ST. JOHN NEWMANN</b><br>2575 W. El Campo Grande Ave, NLV, 89031<br>SAT: Vigil 4pm<br>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5pm<br>TUE-FRI: 8am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>5830 Mesa Park Dr., LV NV 89135<br>MON-SAT: 7:30am<br>SAT: 4:00pm<br>SUN: 7:30am<br>12:00pm, 5:00pm                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



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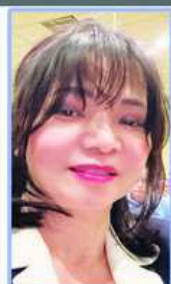


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Distinguished physicians honored: The FEU-DNR School of Medicine Alumni Foundation of the United States recently paid tribute to the members of Class '61 (Blue Sapphire 65 th -year Jubilarian) at its 45 th annual CME Reunion at the Motor City Hotel-Casino in Detroit, Michigan. This exceptional Class of 1961 garnered 8 places in the 1961 medical board examination from the First Place all the way down, leaving only the 4 th and 8 th places to UST, almost a clean sweep, an amazing record in the history of medical licensure examinations around the world, unbroken to this day. Photo shows (l-r) Doctors Ernesto D. Madarang, Zenaida E. Ostman (her husband Henry behind her,) Moises L. Buzon, Rose Buzon, Arturo de Leon, Rosemary E. de Leon, Abraham Y. Sim, Lily N. Sim, Farida I. Chua, Hai Madarang, Remedios D. Sonson, Samuel Sonson, and Philip S. Chua (Class President).

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UNTIL A SUITABLE VENUE IS SECURED



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Members  
of our Filipino-American Community:

With a full heart, we want to share an important update regarding the planned presentation of Philippine Ballet Theatre's production of SARIMANOK in Las Vegas.

After months of outreach, research, and coordination with multiple venues, we secured a theatre that initially looked like a good fit for this esteemed production. However, after a final technical review, Philippine Ballet Theatre determined that the venue's existing conditions would significantly compromise SARIMANOK's artistic integrity and staging requirements.

Out of respect for the Ballet's world-class standards – and in mutual agreement between their leadership and ours – we made a mutual decision to postpone the Las Vegas performance until a venue worthy of their artistry can be secured.

This decision was not made lightly. It reflects our shared commitment to presenting SARIMANOK in the way it deserves: with excellence, dignity, and full creative integrity.

To Our Sponsors and Supporters:

We want to express our deepest gratitude to each of you who stepped forward with sponsorship pledges and support. Your belief in bringing Philippine Ballet Theatre to Las Vegas gave us courage and momentum to move forward.

Many of you said “yes” immediately when personally approached – and that generosity will never be forgotten.

As promised:

- All funds already received will be returned promptly and in full.
- All individual tickets purchased will be refunded.
- To everyone who has pledged their support, we will reach out again when the time comes.

Your support was not in vain. It demonstrated that our community is ready – and willing – to welcome world-class Filipino artistry to Las Vegas. Once we secure the right venue, we can move forward with confidence, unity, and renewed strength.

Philippine Ballet Theatre remains one of the Philippines' most respected cultural institutions, and SARIMANOK is among its most celebrated works – a breathtaking fusion of classical ballet and Mindanaoan tradition.

Their commitment to artistic excellence is why we wanted them here. That's why we respect their decision to postpone rather than compromise the production.

We remain committed to bringing them to Las Vegas at a future date – one that ensures their artistry is showcased at the highest level.

WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE

Thank you for your trust  
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Thank you for believing in this dream with us.

THIS IS NOT AN ENDING – ONLY A PAUSE.....

And when SARIMANOK finally takes the stage in Las Vegas,  
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Gloria T. Caoile  
Vice President, FAHF  
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Minnie Wimperis  
Secretary, FAHF  
Co-Chair, PBT's Sarimanok, LV







# FACAI IN ACTION

Written by: Virgilio "Bing" P. Longakit Jr., MBA, JD, CPM, CPA  
President of FACAI Foundation



## WALKING TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Fil-Am Civic Action International, Inc. (FACAI), in partnership with the FACAI Foundation and Miss Fil-Am Nevada USA, brought the community together for its third annual Walk for Mental Health and Breast Cancer on September 5, 2026, at Paradise-McLeod Park in Las Vegas.

Guided by the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Hope—One Step at a Time," the event reminded participants that caring for mental and physical health is a shared community responsibility. Families, wellness advocates, community leaders, supporters, and FACAI beauty queens walked side by side to promote awareness, compassion, and open conversation.

The walk placed special emphasis on breaking the stigma surrounding mental illness, checking on friends and loved ones, ending the silence, and recognizing that healing takes time. This year's expanded focus also highlighted suicide prevention and loneliness, the effects of social media on Generation Z, holistic health, brain and cognitive wellness, cultural healing practices, and the importance of building strong support networks.

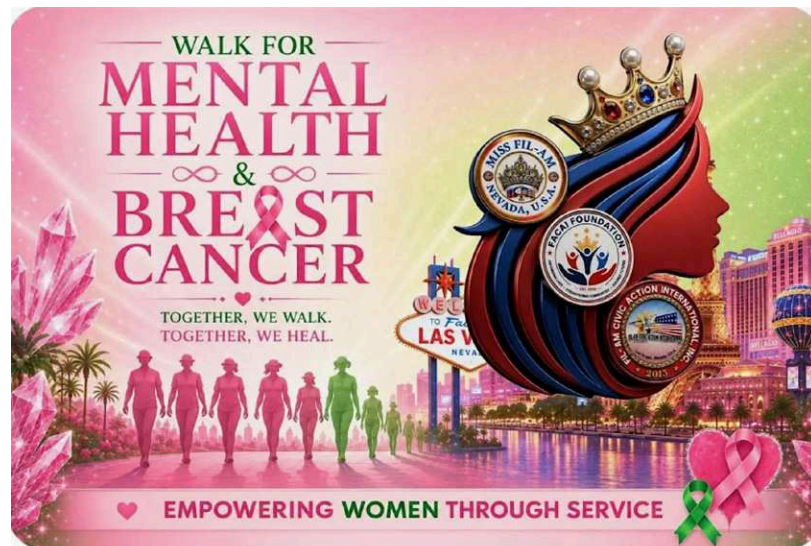
More than a fitness activity, the gathering created an encouraging space where participants could learn, connect, and support one another. Educational stations and guest speakers shared information on mental and physical wellness, while complimentary water and healthy snacks helped keep walkers energized. Participants also received commemorative medals as a reminder that every step—and every conversation—can make a difference.

The presence of FACAI's pageant queens added inspiration and visibility to the cause, showing that beauty is expressed not only through poise and appearance, but also through empathy, service, and concern for the whole person.

Optional donations supported FACAI's community programs, including initiatives that promote mental health awareness and connect people with helpful resources. Through the continuing collaboration of FACAI, the FACAI Foundation, Miss Fil-Am Nevada USA, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners, the walk demonstrated what can be accomplished when people unite behind a meaningful cause.

FACAI extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who participated and helped make the event possible. Together, we walk. Together, we heal. Most importantly, no one should ever have to walk

the journey toward wellness alone, and everyone deserves understanding, encouragement, dignity, hope, and a caring hand along the way forward.



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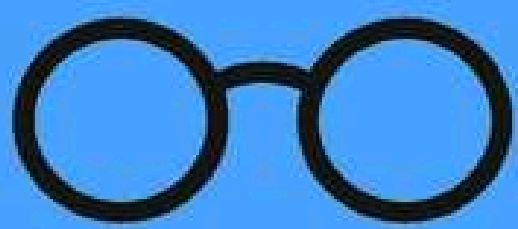
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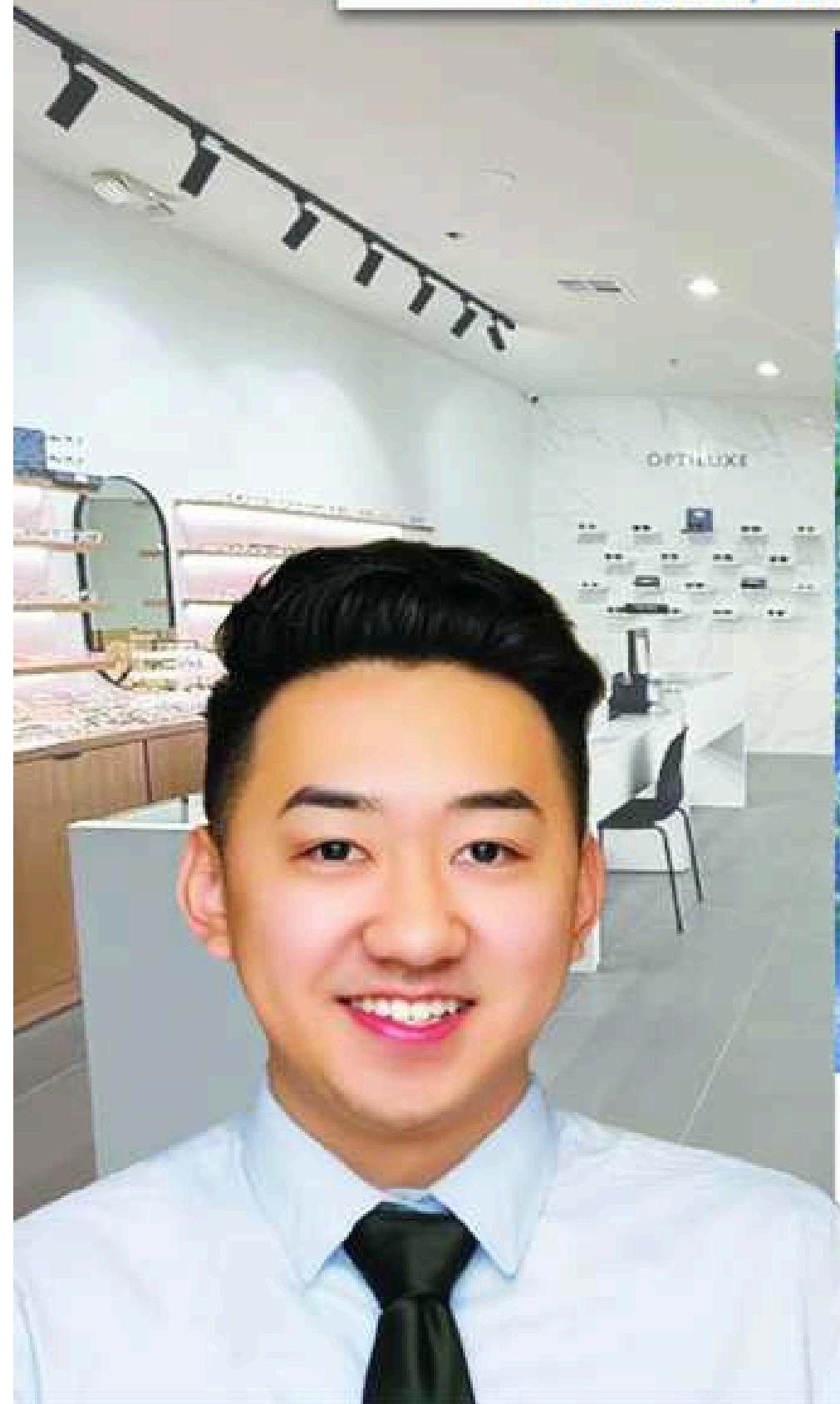
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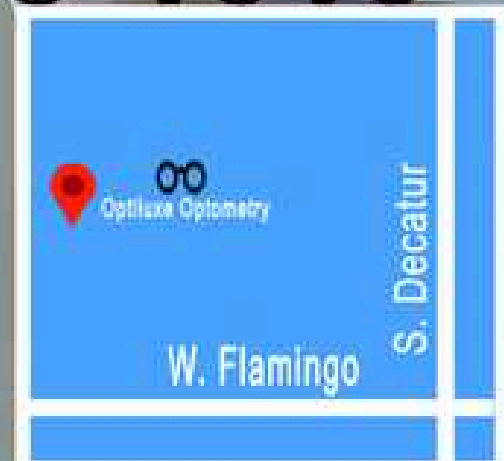
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According to Ah Xin of Shin Kwong Seafood Restaurant, Shin Kwong has been committed to offering freshly made Cantonese dim sum every day for many years, in addition to being suitable for gatherings and entertainment. Welcome to make a reservation.

Siu Mai, chicken feet, rice noodle rolls, Yu Sha Bao, and other common dim sum.

The chef has introduced dishes including: Mangosteen Beef Balls, Spring Water Tofu, Shrimp and Chive Dumplings, Hong Kong Style Thousand-Layer Maji Cake, and Pork Floss.

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## SHUVEE ETRATA, ANTHONY CONSTANTINO TO STAR IN DIGITAL SERIES ‘VLOG TO LOVE’

MANILA, Sept 5 (Mabuhay) -- Shuvee Etrata and Anthony Constantino are set to take on their first series together as they topbill the upcoming digital series “Vlog to Love.”

The Sparkle stars will portray the characters Angge and Bullet, respectively.

For Shuvee, “Vlog to Love” is a dream project she is excited to finally share with Anthony, who is also her real-life suitor.

“This series is really a dream for Anthony and me. Of course, in real life, we’re also courting each other, right? It feels like my dreams are always coming true, but it’s really true! So many of my dreams are coming true,” she said in Filipino.

Meanwhile, Anthony admitted that learning how to speak Filipino was among the biggest challenges he faced while preparing for the project.

Despite the challenge, he thinks “Shuvee and I are gonna have a lot of fun playing these roles because it’s very much like us,” Anthony said.

He described their characters as “two different people who have two different lives and ended up falling in love really just because of each other.”



“I’m just super excited for you guys to see it,” he added.

Anthony has been courting Shuvee even before her “PBB Collab 1.0” stint back in 2025.

In March, Shuvee said she and Anthony are in no rush to put a label on their relationship.

Previously, Shuvee and Anthony both appeared in the GMA Pictures horror film “Huwag Kang Titingin,” starring Sofia Pablo and Allen Ansay. (MNS)

## KYLIE PADILLA ON HAVING MANY SUITORS: ‘COLLECT THEN SELECT?’

MANILA, Sept 9 (Mabuhay) -- Kylie Padilla revealed that she has many suitors at the moment, but she is currently focused on being a single mom.

The “Taskforce Firewall” actress said she couldn’t believe it herself that she is getting a lot of suitors.

“I was also surprised,” she said in Filipino.

“You know the saying, ‘collect then select?’ I’m finally doing it,” she added, followed by a laugh.

Kylie also addressed those who are “shipping” her with her Korean TikTok friend, Ethan, asking fans not to give them a love angle because they only see each other as friends.

Their only goal on TikTok is to make online viewers happy.

Meanwhile, Kylie addressed her chemistry with “Taskforce Firewall” co-star Luis Hontiveros, as many viewers have been shipping the two.

“Our chemistry is strong, so naturally it shows through the screen. So why not feed it if it’s there?” she said in a mix of Filipino and English.

Per Kylie, their chemistry has been apparent since fter the first time they met.



“The chemistry is there, but of course, when it comes to how we do a scene, we talk about it,” she added.

Kylie has two sons, Alas and Axl, with her ex-husband, Aljur Abrenica.

She stars in “Taskforce Firewall” along with Miguel Tanfelix, Kylene Alcantara, Jak Roberto, and Buboy Villar.

It airs Monday to Friday at 8:50 p.m. after “The Master Cutter.” (MNS)

## BARBIE FORTEZA DOESN’T BELIEVE IN GIVING CHEATERS A SECOND CHANCE, AND OTHER LESSONS

MANILA, Sept 5 (Mabuhay) -- Barbie Forteza recently went viral when she vehemently said no, when asked whether cheaters deserve a second chance.

At the media conference for her upcoming film “Saving Grace,” the Kapuso Primetime Princess was asked if she believed people who cheat deserve another chance.

“F–k, no” was Barbie’s immediate answer.

On “Fast Talk With Boy Abunda”, Barbie addressed her viral response and explained her stance on cheating is rooted in self-love.

“The way I was raised is that you should value yourself,” Barbie began in Filipino. “I support myself. I treat myself out. In a way, that’s how much I love myself,”

She explained valuing herself also means she values the time, attention, and love she willingly gives to a partner.

“So loving another person who isn’t related to me, who isn’t my family, to whom I don’t have any obligation to, only for that person to cheat on me? Why? Right?” she said.

“I chose you. I have no obligations toward you, and then you cheat on me? My time is valuable. My attention is valuable,” Barbie added.

For Barbie, the issue goes beyond simply cheating.

The Kapuso star draws the line at anything that makes her feel like she is being treated with less respect or value in a relationship such as betrayal.

“I guess it’s not just cheating. It’s



anything that would make me feel like I have been treated as less,” she explained.

The actress said betrayal becomes particularly painful when she has already given her time, love, and trust to someone.

“Because I gave myself to you, my time, my love, most importantly. Then you betrayed my trust,” Barbie added.

During the interview, she made clear she’s not imposing her views on other couples. “That’s just for me,” she said.

Barbie is set to star in the upcoming film “Saving Cherry” with Khalil Ramos and in the series “Honor Thy Mother” with Sharon Cuneta. (MNS)

## BIANCA UMALI JOINS CAST OF ‘ALWAYS YOURS, NEVER MINE’

MANILA, Sept 11 (Mabuhay) -- Bianca Umali has joined the cast of the upcoming film “Always Yours, Never Mine,” starring Julia Barretto and Joshua Garcia.

On Instagram, Bianca and Sparkle GMA Artist Center shared the film’s official poster, listing her alongside Julia, Joshua, and veteran actress Chanda Romero.

“How do you keep a love that keeps on changing?” Bianca wrote in the caption.

Also joining the cast are Joy Barcoma, Karen Reyes, Bob Jbeili, Migs Almendras, Ina Raymundo, Franco Laurel, Reign Parani, Paulo Angeles, Paolo Gumabao, and Jan Silvero.

“Always Yours, Never Mine” is coming to cinemas on September 30.

Bianca recently starred as Terra in “Encantadia Chronicles: Sang’gre.”

She will also voice Ella Arcangel



in the upcoming animated film of the same name. (MNS)

## ELIJAH CANLAS GIVES ADVICE TO THOSE DEALING WITH A BREAKUP

MANILA, Sept 10 (Mabuhay) -- Elijah Canlas has simple yet wise advice for those going through a breakup.

On the sidelines of the advanced screening and press conference for the film “Edjop,” the award-winning actor said to take it easy.

“Just take it day by day, take it easy, and everything will be okay at some point,” he shared in a mix of Filipino and English.

Meanwhile, Elijah has been busy with work “for the past couple of years,” clarifying that his being busy is not because of the breakup.

“So, I don’t think there’s a specific reason. It could be even my grief with my brother. Three years, but you know, it never goes away,” he said.

Elijah also expressed his gratitude for all the work he has been getting.

“I will always remember the times when I was not doing anything. I even quit. It went to the point where I quit acting, so being in this spot, I have to make the most out of it,” Elijah said.

Elijah recently confirmed that he and his long-term girlfriend, Miles Ocampo,

had broken up.

Miles and Elijah confirmed their relationship in May 2022 and broke up in 2023.

A year later, the two were reportedly back together after being spotted at various events.

Elijah stars as Edgar “Edjop” Jopson in the film “Edjop,” which chronicles his life as an activist during the Martial Law period. Directed by Katski Flores, it premieres in cinemas on September 16. (MNS)



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## LEGENDARY LEA SALONGA RECEIVED WALK OF FAME & FRANK PARAS JR. INDUCTED TO FIGHTERS WALL OF FAME

*Written by KIKO AQUINO JR.*

Two Childhood friends made histories in USA: On September 04, 2026 Legendary LEA SALONGA received Hollywood Walk of Fame, On July 22, 2026 Director-Actor FRANK PARAS JR., rec'd KOJC Highest Number of Most Visitors in USA and August 15, 2026 Inducted to Martial Arts Fighters Wall of Fame.

Maria Lea Carmen Imutan Salonga, known as LEA SALONGA, is a Filipina actress and singer celebrated for her work on Broadway, The West End as the singing voice of Disney's Princess Jasmine in Aladdin and Fa Mulan in Mulan. She gained international fame in 1989 for originating in Miss Saigon, winning both Olivier and tony Awards. She is the first Asian woman to do so. Her career spans acclaimed roles in Les Miserables, Flower Drum Song and Allegiance as well as mentoring to the Voice franchise. Lea Salonga celebrated her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, marking a joyful moment in her storied career and becoming the first Filipina to be recognized with the honor. The Broadway legend famously won a Tony Award at 20 in 1991 for her heartfelt portrayal of Kim in Miss Saigon, becoming the first Asian actress to be recognized by the honor. She later took on the tragic role of Éponine, and later Fantine, in the Broadway production of Les Misérables. Her powerful vocals would become synonymous with the unforgettable magic-carpet ride in 1992's Aladdin when she performed "A Whole New World" for the classic film. In 1998, Salonga featured as the singing voice of the heroic title character in Disney's Mulan. She has performed at venues like Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House, earned honors including Disney Legend status and 2026 became the first Filipina award a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Director-Actor FRANK PARAS JR., Fight of Fury 2 Retaliation Actor of the Year, rec'd KOJC Highest Number of Most Visitors in USA & Inducted to Martial Arts Fighters Wall of Fame. USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame In-



**Actor Frank Paras Jr. and Original star of the Miss Saigon LEA SALONGA**

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**Inducted to Fighters Wall of Fame Frank Paras Jr. holding his certificate and Founder and President of Marauder's High Honor Senior Grand Coach Kidd Jason.**

ductee, Presidential Champion Bronze Award from President Barrack Obama, USMC Presidential Physical Fitness Award Certificate of Appreciation, Marauders High Honor, World Martial Arts Black Belt Society and The Martial Arts Academy Awardee, Frank Paras Jr. continues to make headlines with an extraordinary undefeated record of 200 amateur fights, eight years undefeated record a rare feat that highlights his discipline, adaptability and mental strength. His military service across Kearny High School United States

Army Jr. ROTC, United States Marine Corps Military Police and United States Air Force Reserve Operation Desert Storm Mobility Officer further reflect his resilience and leadership. Trained by icons Red Belt Grandmaster-Actor Trovador Ramos, Grandmaster-Actor Romy Santiago aka Ulysses Tzan and Grandmaster-Actor Robert San Luis aka Robert Lee. Guidance and support from 18 World Title Win, Royal Flush Champion, UFC Champion, Bellator Champion, Strike Force Champion, Invicta Champion, and PFL Champion Cris Cyborg, UFC Light Heavyweight Champion Tito Ortiz, Great Grandmaster Frederick Peterson, Grandmas-

ter-Dr. Jim Thomas, Writer-Producer-Director-Actor-Grandmaster, Shunyu Bee, Grandmaster Byron Mantack, Grandmaster Eric Lee, Grandmaster Albert Wilson, Grandmaster Thomas Hardie, Senior Grand Coach Kidd Jason, Hollywood Actress and Professor Karen Sheperd and Military Fighter Pilot, Real Estate Legend, Grandmaster Candidate Congressman Tom Vo. Paras Jr. also built a film career in the Philippines, Kosa and Tournament of Death, Mexico, Ex Voto and La Calavera de Gabriel, In the United States, Fight of Fury 2 Retaliation 2. His Hall of Fame induction cements his legacy as a true martial arts icon.



**L-R Luz Paras, Terry Crespo, KOJC Regional Coordinator Analy Taguiang, Mychal Morris (USMC & USA National Guard), Frank Paras Jr., (USMC & USAF Reserve), Grandmaster-Pastor Albert Wilson, Connie Sim, Justina Cabellario, Aaron Sim, Hollywood Actress-Singer-Pastor Gemma Wenger and Lovely Tolentino.**



**Arnold Nuqui, Mike Mancini, Jessie Juanillo, Arvie Pagara, Frank Paras Jr. holding medal for receiving No. 1 KJC Most Visitors in USA, Arnold Nava, Arnel Pagara, KOJC Master Ceremony Michael Ross Maquilan, Epchel Capunong and Jeremy Perkins.**



**MaryAnn Cordova, Michael Ross Maquilan, Fight of Fury 2 Retaliation Actor of the Year Frank Paras Jr., Brown Belt Jeremy Perkins and PINAS Global Newspaper Administrator Joy Paragosa.**



# NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SNAP?

LET US HELP! Formally known as food stamps, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal nutrition program that aims to help low-income individuals and families to buy food at authorized retailers .

You may be eligible depending on your income and household situation, including if you are...

- Working for minimum wages
- Working part-time
- Unemployed
- Elderly or disabled
- Experiencing homelessness
- Receiving other public assistance/benefits



## FAQs

**Where can I use my SNAP benefits?**  
Many retailers accept SNAP, including major grocery stores and several online retailers (such as Walmart and Amazon).

**What will the amount of benefit be?**  
It depends on the household's specific conditions.

**Will there be an application fee, and how long does the application process take?**  
The application is free of charge, and a decision is typically made within 30 days. Some households may qualify for expedited benefits within 7 days.

**How to increase my likelihood of a successful application?**  
A common reason for denial is missing an interview or failing to submit the required documents. To be a successful applicant, you will need to provide the required information and/or documents on time.

**What if I don't buy, prepare, and eat food with other people in my home?**  
People who buy, prepare, and eat food together need to apply for SNAP together. If you usually buy, prepare, and eat separately from others or intend to do so, you can be considered a separate food unit and apply it on your own.

**How are the benefits issued, and will others know I'm receiving assistance?**  
Nevada issues SNAP benefits using an EBT account. EBT cards look like debit cards and can be used at checkout like a regular card.

**What information/documents may I have to provide?**  
You need to provide proof of the following information (if applicable):

- Identification/Citizenship
- Nevada Residency
- Earned Income (e.g., Paystub)
- Unearned Income (e.g., Social Security Benefits)
- Out-of-State Benefits
- Resources (e.g., Bank Account, Retirement Account)
- Shelter Expenses (e.g., Rent/Mortgage and Utility Bill) and Educational Expenses
- Court-Ordered Child Support
- Optional: Dependent Care (e.g., Sitter or Daycare Center Cost)

Contact us for assistance in applying for SNAP.  
info@acdcnv.org | (702) 489-8866



This material was partially funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Please call 1-800-992-0900 for more information. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# DO YOU NEED HEALTH COVERAGE?

Tagalog - - Tiếng Việt - ไทย -

Our services are FREE. We will help you enroll in a qualified health plan.

If you have any of these life events, you **may** qualify for health coverage:

- Getting married or divorced
- Moving (from another county, state, or a foreign country)
- Change in income or job change
- Birth, adoption, or adding a member living with the family
- Loss of health insurance (Employer, COBRA, Medicaid, Medicare)
- Turning 26, or Losing parents' coverage
- Gaining U.S legal status

### HEALTH NAVIGATORS:

Ann Apellido - English & Tagalog  
ann@hapimedical.org  
(702) 985-5700

Diem Nguyen - English & Vietnamese  
diem@acdcnv.org  
(702) 677-2277

Joy Avendano - English & Tagalog  
joy@acdcnv.org  
(702) 738-0800

8863 W Flamingo Rd., Suite 101,  
Las Vegas, NV 89147

ACDC and its navigators receive no commission and are not affiliated with any insurance company or brokers

**Disclaimer:** The life change must be within 60 days of the current date to gain health coverage. There may be other restrictions for qualifying life events.





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Every Sunday 9:30- 10:00 am  
Time Warner channel 1519



Northern California  
Every Saturday  
12:30-1:00 pm (PST)  
Channel 26



San Diego  
Every Saturday  
10:00-10:30 am (PST)  
Time Warner Channel 17



Hawaii & Maui  
Every Saturday  
3:30-4:00 pm (HST)



Southern California  
Every Friday  
4:30-5:00 pm (PST)  
Channel 18



Southern California  
Every Wednesday & Thursday  
6:30-7:00 am (PST)  
Channel 20



Canada  
Every Saturday  
1:00-1:30 pm (EST)  
Bell | Shaw

### Schedule of Services:

|                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sundays:</b>            | <b>Tuesdays:</b>                  |
| Sunday School: 9:30 am     | Bible Study: 7:00 pm              |
| Divine Worship: 11:00 am   | <b>Thursdays:</b>                 |
| Watchers' Service: 3:00 pm | Prayer Meeting: 7:00 pm           |
| Seekers' Service: 6:00 pm  | <b>Saturdays:</b>                 |
|                            | Family Devotion: 7:00 am          |
|                            | <b>Mon-Fri:</b> Devotion: 6:00 am |

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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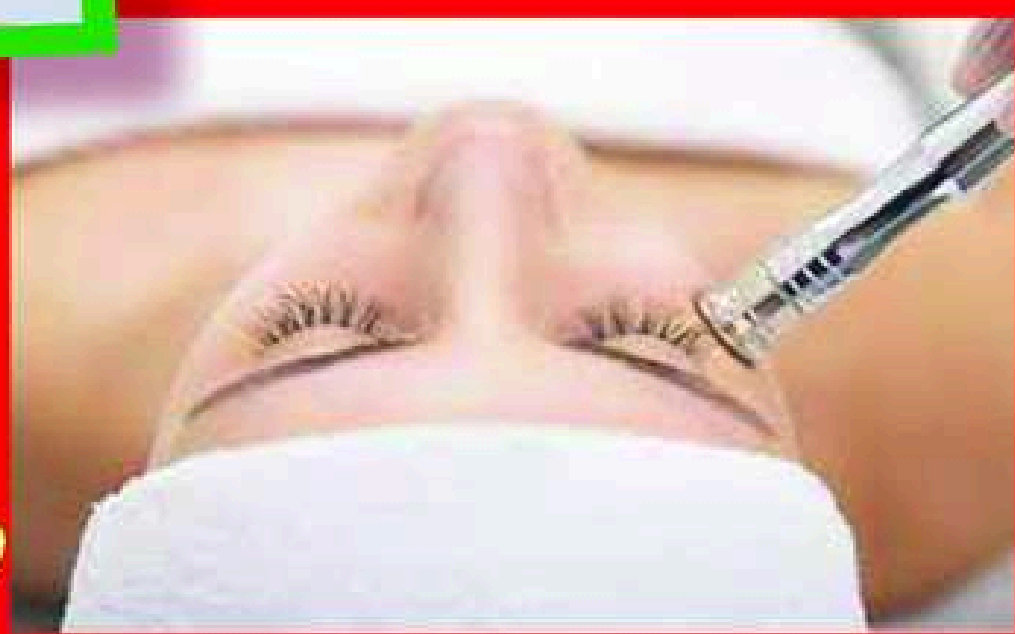
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# ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL 2026 TO CELEBRATE ASIAN CULTURE, FOOD AND COMMUNITY IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The vibrant cultures, flavors and traditions of Asia will come together this fall as the Asian Lantern Festival 2026 brings Southern Nevada’s diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community together for an evening of food, culture, entertainment and connection.

Formerly known as the Asian Night Market, the family-friendly festival will take place Saturday, October 24, from 5 to 11 p.m. at the Desert Breeze Event Center, 8455 Kids Zone Parkway. Everyone is invited to experience the diverse cultures and traditions that help make Southern Nevada such a dynamic community.

The festival will feature an exciting lineup of authentic Asian cuisine, cultural performances, live entertainment, local vendors, family activities and beautiful lantern-inspired décor. Guests can sample food, discover local businesses and organizations, enjoy live performances and spend an evening celebrating Asian culture with family and friends.

## A Celebration With a Purpose

While the Asian Lantern Festival is designed as a fun and welcoming community celebration, it also serves an important purpose: Supporting the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) and its work throughout Southern Nevada.

Founded by Vida Lin, ACDC provides resources, programs and opportunities designed to support and empower AANHPI individuals and families. The organization has worked to connect community members with services, education, healthcare resources, cultural programming and other support.

“The Asian Lantern Festival is more than a celebration, it is a reflection of the incredible diversity, strength and spirit of our community,” said Vida Lin, Founder and President of the Asian Community Development Council. “We want to create a space where people can come together, celebrate our cultures, support local businesses and build meaningful connections. At the same time, this event helps support ACDC’s work and allows us to continue creating opportunities and providing resources for the families and communities we serve.”

For ACDC, bringing people together through culture is an important part of building stronger communities.

“You don’t have to be Asian to enjoy and be part of this celebration. We want everyone in Las Vegas to come experience the food, culture, music and traditions that make our community so special,” Lin said. “It’s an opportunity to learn from one another, celebrate our differences and recognize how much stronger we are when we come together.”

## Celebrating the Diversity of Asian Culture

One of the festival’s goals is to showcase the incredible diversity within the broader Asian community. Rather than focusing on one culture or tradition, the Asian Lantern Festival will offer attendees an opportunity to experience different foods, performances, businesses and cultural traditions in one setting.

For Filipino Americans and other AANHPI communities across Southern Nevada, the event provides an opportunity to connect with fellow community members while celebrating the many cultures that contribute to the fabric of Las Vegas.

Families are encouraged to attend, with activities and entertainment planned for guests of all ages.

The festival also provides a platform for local businesses, food vendors, artists, performers and community organizations to connect with the public and showcase what they have to offer.

## A New Location for 2026

This year’s festival will also introduce a new location at Desert Breeze Event Center, providing a fresh setting for the growing community celebration.

Organizers are encouraging attendees to mark their calendars now and make plans to enjoy an evening filled with food, entertainment, culture and community.

## EVENT DETAILS

Asian Lantern Festival 2026  
 Saturday, October 24, 2026  
 5–11 p.m.  
 Desert Breeze Event Center  
 8455 Kids Zone Parkway  
 Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Food • Culture • Entertainment • Community

## Tickets & Information:

AsianLanternFestivalLV.com  
 Whether you come for the food, cultural performances, live entertainment, lantern-inspired atmosphere, family activities or simply to connect with the community, the Asian Lantern Festival 2026 offers an opportunity to celebrate the richness and diversity of Asian cultures while supporting the important work of ACDC.



ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

NEW LOCATION

5PM to 11PM at Desert Breeze Event Center  
8455 Kids Zone Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89147

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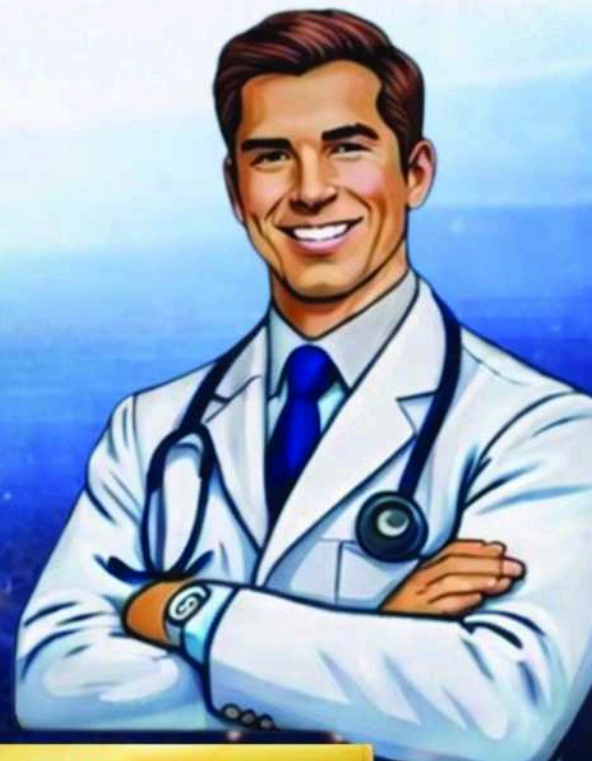
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# WHY AANHPI NEVADANS MUST SHOW UP THIS MIDTERM

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander voters are the fastest-growing electorate in the country, and Nevada is a clear example of what that means in practice. AANHPI voters now make up roughly one in ten eligible voters statewide, enough to swing a close race on their own.

The turnout numbers tell a different story, though. For decades, AANHPI voters have shown up at the polls at lower rates than nearly every other group in Nevada. Campaigns often skip over AANHPI communities altogether, betting that the outreach isn't worth the cost. Lower turnout only confirms that bet, and the cycle repeats itself election after election.

Closing that gap isn't only about individual choice. It also depends on

whether communities are actually reached, informed, and asked to participate in the first place, since turnout tends to rise wherever that groundwork gets done.

A handful of organizations in Nevada have spent years doing exactly that kind of groundwork. One APIA Nevada (OAN) is a nonpartisan civic advocacy organization built around AANHPI political power and accountability. The Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) is a nonpartisan nonprofit that runs voter registration drives at AANHPI-populated locations across the valley, including schools, small businesses, and community events. Together, that work includes registering voters, translating ballot information into the languages families actual-

ly speak at home, and reaching out to AANHPI households directly instead of leaving them off campaign lists.

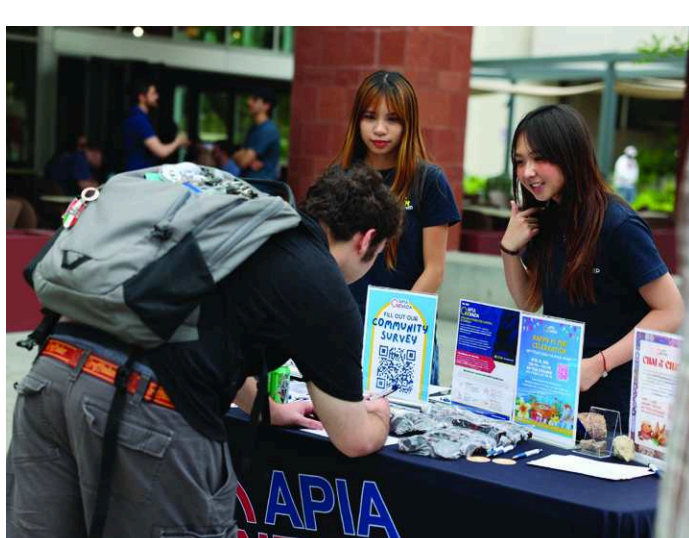
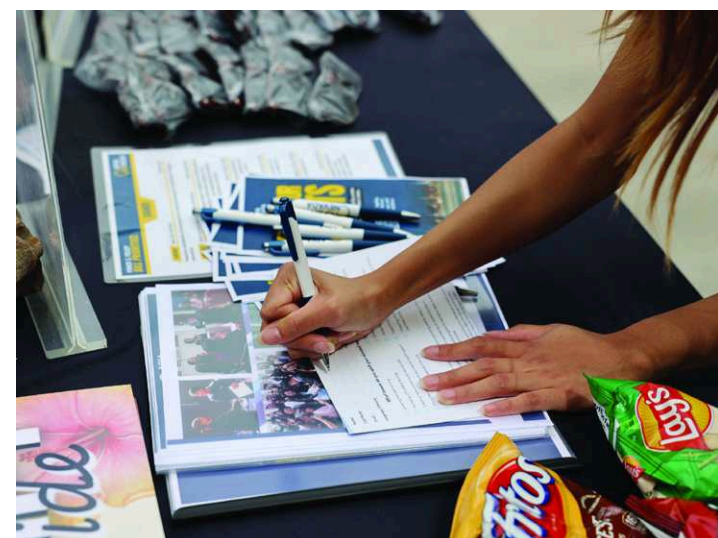
That outreach matters because political attention follows people who vote, not people who could vote. Elected officials pay closer attention to communities that show up, because those are the communities that can decide whether they keep their seat. When AANHPI turnout stays low, issues like language access, healthcare, and school funding are easy to push aside. When turnout rises, those same issues get harder to ignore.

For a lot of AANHPI families in Nevada, voting isn't something to take for granted. Many first-generation immigrants spent years working toward citizenship before they ever got to cast

a ballot. For their children and grandchildren, voting is a way of carrying that effort forward rather than letting it go to waste.

Midterms don't get the same turnout or attention as presidential years, but the offices on this ballot shape daily life just as directly: housing costs, healthcare access, and whether ballots are even available in the languages Nevada families speak.

No single election closes the gap between how many AANHPI Nevadans could vote and how many actually do. But there is no path to closing that gap that skips voting to get there. This midterm is one more chance to close it a little further.



# TOGETHER, WE VOTE FOR CHANGE.

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WHEN BUSINESS MEANS KNOWING IT'S TIME TO CHANGE

# chamber matters

An update on business news, developments and events from The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada (FACCGN).

by: JOEL ENRIQUEZ, President



Join us and be part of the chamber that loves small businesses.  
Log in to our website <https://www.faccgn.org/>  
Or email us at [info@faccgn.org](mailto:info@faccgn.org)

In business, change is often viewed as a reaction to a problem. Sales are down, competition is increasing, customers are changing, or the economy has become more difficult. But sometimes change is not about fixing what is broken. Sometimes, it is about recognizing an opportunity to do something different—to grow, reinvent, or simply begin a new chapter.

Two businesses in Southern Nevada illustrate this idea in very different ways. One is a newly arrived cybersecurity consulting firm finding its place in a new city. The other is an established graphic design studio expanding beyond its traditional business model. Both have reached the same conclusion: standing still is not always an option.

## A New Chapter in Las Vegas

For Sam Aliro, founder of **Level Up Consulting Kollektive LLC**, change literally meant moving across the Pacific.

Born in Manila and moved to Hawaii with his parents when he was five years old, Aliro recently relocated to Las Vegas with his wife, Lorena, a child behavioral therapist, and their two children. They arrived in July of this year, just three months ago, and Aliro fondly describes the move as the beginning of “a new chapter of our lives”.

That new chapter also includes establishing his cybersecurity consulting business in a much larger and more competitive marketplace.

Aliro serves as a virtual Chief Information Security Officer, or vCISO, helping small and medium-sized businesses and defense subcontractors navigate the increasingly complicated world of governance, risk and compliance. His work involves automated telemetry pipelines and rigorous NIST security policies designed to help clients meet regulatory requirements, reduce compliance risks and

overcome barriers to securing government contracts.

His approach to cybersecurity is rooted in experience.

The operational discipline behind his company was shaped during his service in the U.S. Army National Guard, including two deployments to the Middle East, and further developed through his work as an IT Systems Administrator and Information Systems Security Officer within the federal government.

“Managing mission-critical infrastructure taught me that theoretical security is useless,” he explains. “Resilience requires rigorous configuration management and battle-tested disaster recovery protocols.”

Moving a business from Hawaii to Las Vegas presents its own challenges. Aliro understands that building a reputation and a network in a new community does not happen overnight. Rather than waiting for business to come to him, he has been deliberately introducing himself to the local business community.

One of his first steps was joining the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada. Since then, he has made a point of attending business events, conventions and networking opportunities where he can meet other



## LEVELING UP, SHOWING UP

New transplant to Vegas, Sam Aliro introduces his cybersecurity company to FACCGN membership.

entrepreneurs and establish his presence.

## When a Design Business Designs Its Own Future

For **Luna Design International**, change has taken a different form.

For more than a decade, the graphic design studio—originally established in the Philippines and now operating in the United States — has concentrated primarily on Product design, branding, brand development and packaging design for manufacturing clients.

While not totally pivoting, Luna Design decided today's business environment has prompted the company to add another model where its creative talents can lead.

Instead of designing only for other companies, Luna Design is now developing, producing and preparing to retail a select line of its own products aimed at Southern Nevada's growing Filipino American community.

The concept combines design with cultural familiarity.

Among the first products scheduled for introduction this holiday season are disposable paper plates featuring tropical banana-

leaf imagery. The design is intended to evoke the Filipino tradition of *kamayan*, when food is traditionally served and enjoyed communally using fresh banana leaves.

The product line will also include T-shirts featuring patterns inspired by Philippine indigenous cultures, along with playful and sometimes sassy statements reflecting Filipino traits, humor and everyday behavior.

Perhaps the most distinctive offering will be gift packs featuring heirloom rice varieties from the Cordillera mountain regions of northern Philippines. Two varieties—Mountain Violet and Ifugao Diket—are being introduced in brightly designed packaging that celebrates both the product and its cultural origin.

More curated products are expected to be added as the holiday season approaches.

A personal disclosure for our readers: **Luna Design International** is owned and managed by me and my wife, food writer and designer Olive Enriquez. As the writer of this column, I want to make that relationship clear to our readers. I am including **Luna Design** in this article because its decision to expand its creative services into developing its own products reflects the broader theme of this column: how small businesses are adapting, experimenting and finding new opportunities in a challenging business environment. - JRE



## NEW PRODUCTS IN THE MARKET

LUNA DESIGN combines design with cultural familiarity.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS CHAMBER



# Celebrating Legacy and Generosity: Highlights from the 33rd Annual USTMAAA Convention and Historic Foundation Milestone

Four-day gathering combined governance, continuing medical education, and celebration — alumni raised over \$100,000 for the USTMAAA Foundation

The **University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America (USTMAAA)** recently brought together alumni physicians, families, and friends from across the country for its 33rd Annual Convention and Reunion. Held from July 15 to 19, 2026, at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront in Burlingame, California, the four-day event combined governance, professional enrichment, and joyful celebrations.

The event kicked off with a joint board meeting of **USTMAAA** and the **USTMAAA Foundation**, followed by an engaging Continuing Medical Education (CME) program. Among the highlights was the Opening Ceremony keynote address by Dr. Ma. Lourdes Maglinao, Dean of USTFMS, who presented "The New Healer's Manifesto: From Stethoscope to Synapse, 50-Years of Care and the Future We Must Create".

Evenings were dedicated to fellowship, featuring a lively Karaoke Night and Dance Party, a festive "Western Night" parade celebrating class anniversaries and outstanding jubilarians, and a grand Gala Night featuring the presentation of the Most Outstanding Alumni Awards and formal officer inductions.

### A Historic Milestone: The USTMAAA Foundation's \$11 Million Endowment

Woven into the fabric of the convention's celebratory spirit was a monumental achievement for the community: The USTMAAA Foundation celebrated the growth of its permanent endowment fund to an incredible \$11 million.

Established in 1990, the Foundation was created as a permanent vehicle for alumni to support their alma mater. The Foundation gratefully honors its visionary founders:

- **Dr. Gregorio Tolentino**, its first President
- **Dr. Jose Evangelista**, who founded USTMAAA and established chapters throughout the United States (including New York, Florida, Louisiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Nevada, and Northern California) while championing a unified national organization and annual convention
- The late **Dr. Jose "Boy" Vijungco**, recognized for his visionary leadership
- The late **Dr. Nacianceno Largoza**

Today, that foundational vision has blossomed into a lasting legacy of compassion and purpose.

### Key highlights of the Foundation's impact include:

- **Perpetual Annual Support:** The endowment is designed to yield at least \$400,000 annually (approx. ₱24 million pesos) to support the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, UST Hospital, and indigent patients served by the UST Hospital Clinical Division.
- **Broad Areas of Impact:** Because the principal is preserved while investment earnings are distributed, funding flows continuously toward indigent care programs, medical research, student scholarships, faculty development, infrastructure upgrades, and regular medical-surgical missions.
- **Over \$15 Million in Total Grants:** Beyond the permanent endowment, the Foundation has historically awarded more than \$15 million in grants for special projects, including major initiatives like the Thomasian Alumni Center and the St. Cosmas and Damian Simulation and Research Center.



INDUCTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
USTMAAA FOUNDATION



OFFICERS AND BOARD USTMAA AMERICA



Jubilarian of the year awardees

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Stella Evangelista - Exce Director, USTMAAA FOUNDATION

Joe Evangelista - FOUNDING FATHER, USTMAAA

JUBILARIAN AWARDEES 2026; PRESENTED DURING THE "WESTERN NIGHT"

1) MARIE JOSEPHINE HAN VALERA - SAPPHIRE

2) DEAN ODETTE MAGLINAO - RUBY

3) DR.;; CYREN ESTRADA - GOLDEN

4) DR. ELPIDIO MARIANO - EMERALD

5) REV. FR. JULIUS FACTORA - CEO UST HOSPITAL



CURRENT OFFICERS OF THE USTMAAA AND FOUNDATION  
LEFT TO RIGHT

DRS. TONY GONZA;LES  
DR. AURORA GONZALES - INCOMING PRESIDENT OF USTMAAA FOUNDATION -  
DRS. JOSE AND STELLA EVANGELISTA  
DR. MARIA REGINA FLORES - OUTGOING PRESIDENT USTMAAA FOUNDATION  
DR. SUSAN FLORES - INCOMING PRESIDENT USTMAAA  
DR. TORIBIO FLORES

- **Deep Generosity at the Convention:** Demonstrating their ongoing commitment during the 33rd Annual Convention, attendees and donors came together to raise over **\$100,000** directly for the USTMAAA Foundation.

The Foundation's success has been powered by dedicated leadership and major benefactors, including:

- **Dr. Stella Evangelista**, who has served as Executive Director of the Foundation since its inception in 1992 and Executive Director of USTMAAA for 22 years, providing executive and administrative support at no cost for over three decades.
- **Drs. Dionisio and Zita Yorro**, who worked closely alongside Drs. Jose and Stella Evangelista. Dr. Dionisio Yorro serves as CME Director and Editor for over 30 years and served as Overall Chairman and Executive Director of the 33rd Convention, while Dr. Zita Yorro has been Convention Chairperson alongside Dr. Stella Evangelista for over 20 years.
- **Dr. Marie Josephine Han-Valera**, President of USTMAAA for 2026–2027 and Co-Chair of the 33rd Convention.
- **Major donors and class leaders** such as Dr. Jose and Dr. Stella Evangelista, Dr. Jose and Herminia Vijungco, Dr. Gerard and Dr. Maria Theresa Flores,

- Dr. Maria Regina Flores, the Flores Family Foundation, and representatives from the UST Medicine Classes of 1964 (led by Dr. Anselmo Unite), 1968, and 1969 (led by Dr. Noel Canlas, Dr. Murillo Mangubat, and Dr. Lovey Garcia).
- **Special convention organizers** recognized for sustaining national traditions, including Dr. Primo Andres, Dr. Gerry Flores, and Dr. Dionisio and Marie Josephine Han Valera.

Executive Director **Dr. Stella Evangelista** reflected on the milestone:

*"This is our legacy. It is the enduring result of alumni who chose to give back to the institution that formed us, to support the physicians and scholars who will follow us, and to bring hope and healing to patients who need our help most."*

### Looking Ahead: Save the Date for 2027

Building on the momentum of a successful California gathering and a historic financial milestone, USTMAAA is already looking forward to next year. Mark your calendars for the **34th Annual Convention and Reunion**, scheduled for **June 2 to 6, 2027**, at the **M Resort and Casino** in Henderson, Nevada. The upcoming event will be led by overall chairpersons Dr. Eustaquio Boy Abay (Executive Director), Dr. Susan Flores (USTMAAA President, 2026–2027), and Dr. Araceli Reyes (USTMAAA VP, 2026–2027), and will feature a special presentation by the REO Brothers gifted by Dr. Violy and Dr. Geri Vicencio.



MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDEES 2026  
LEFT TO RIGHT

DRS. STELLA AND JOSE EVANGELISTA  
DR. ANTONIO SAY - MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
DR. GRACE GUZMAN - MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
DR. ANTONIO GONZALES - MOST OUTSTADING ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR  
DR. MARIE JO HAN VALERA, ACCEPTING THE AWARD FOR DR. DAVID BOLONG, MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS FOR SERVICE TO ALMA MATER



Class of '68 Officers:  
DR. DIONISIO AND ZITA YORRO , DR. JOSE AND STELLA EVANGELISTA  
AND DR. ANTONIO AND AURORA GONZALES

