

Alice formed to empower through education

BY CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO
EDITOR AT LARGE



Alice, the newly named all-volunteer community educators, with namesake and honorary chair Alice Bulos (seated center).

DALY CITY, Calif. -- Meet Alice. With a double L.

An acronym for Alliance for Community Empowerment, Alice is a newly named team of Filipino American volunteers organized to promote health and safety through free educational presentations. The name is eponymous to and invokes the work of its honorary chair, Alice Pena Bulos, widely acknowledged as the "godmother of the Filipino American community."

Alice will stage its first educational event, "Free From Violence," a gathering of public officials, concerned private citizens and resource providers, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Colma Community Center on 1520 Hillside Blvd, Colma, CA 94014. San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tisser will keynote the event. Clara and Janine Tempogko will share their story and how they were helped by caring community members.

A diverse group, Alice members are united by their passion to make a difference. The team teems with talent and dedication. Each makes a unique and significant contribution to what they envision as a movement to prevent and end violence in the community.

The team's name is new but the faces behind it are familiar in the field of service.

Honorary chair Alice Bulos, the first Filipino American in history appointed by a sitting president to a U.S. federal advisory council, is founder and president of Thomasians USA and a long-time member of the San Mateo County Commission on Status of Women.

Founding member Bettina Santos Yap is a senior manager with information technology firm Genesys. The proud mother is a member of the Mater Dolorosa Parish council and coordinator/director of its popular annual holiday concert. She directed and starred in Filipina Women's Network presentations of The Vagina Monologues.

Edna Biscocho Murray is a Health Care Claims Examiner for Behavioral Health Care of Alameda County. A former biology teacher, she is a massage therapist who graduated from the National Holistic Institute. She is a state certified domestic violence counselor and 2009 secretary of Alice.

Erlinda Galeon is a gerontologist who coordinates events at a Senior Center and an assisted living facility. A trustee with the Daly City Public Libraries, she is board member of the Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center and the Daly City-Quezon City Sister City Committees, and president of the Philippine Association of University Women and California Federation of Women's Clubs - Golden Gate Chapter.

Dr. Jei Africa manages the Health Disparities program of San Mateo County Behavioral Services Dept. She is the first Filipina president of the San Mateo County Commission on Status of Women and a licensed psychologist. Recently named cultural competence consultant for Georgetown University, she is 2009 president of Alice.

Jennifer Jimenez Wong is a Marriage and Family Therapy intern for the Fred Finch Youth Center, Bridges of San Mateo County. A newlywed, she is thrilled with her new role as mother. Jimenez Wong is 2009 treasurer of Alice.

Mayor Joanne Del Rosario is the first and only Filipino American woman head of all nine Bay Area towns or cities. An executive assistant at a biotech firm in San Francisco, she is ex-president of the Filipino American Association of Colma. She is a member of the Seton Medical Center Community Advisory Council.

Lorraine Canaya is a Nurse Practitioner with Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. She is a doting grandmother and a loving daughter who goes on vacations with her parents.

Malou Aclan is a Registered Nurse with Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. A state certified domestic violence counselor, Malou is current president of the Filipino Association of KP.

Sgt. Randy Caturay lives in Millbrae with his wife and daughter. A 17-year veteran with the San Francisco Police Department, he is the only Filipino and bilingual hostage/crisis negotiator on the force. He is a founding member of the SFPD Philippine Exchange Training Program and co-founder/board director of the Filipino-American Law Enforcement Officers association.

Robert Uy, Esq., is a brand-new father and staff attorney with the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. Robert facilitates domestic violence trainings for colleagues. He also regularly conducts legal clinics at the Philippine Bayanihan Resource Center of which he is a board member.

Susan Roxas is a real estate broker and president of the Serramonte Homeowners' Association. A graduate from St Paul's College in Manila, with a degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting she recently retired from Chevron U.S.A. as an analyst in the Finance Division.

Yumi Querubin is a public safety dispatcher with the Berkeley Police Department who never dreamed she would be a woman-in-uniform one day. Yumi went to

CalState Hayward (now Eastbay) and paged at NBC. She was associate editor of Philippine News until 2002. She is 2009 vice president of Alice.

Cherie M. Querol Moreno is Editor at Large of 'Philippine News' and columnist for several FilAm publications. She was community outreach coordinator with Cora in 2002 when she attended a rally for slain mother Claire Joyce Tempogko and noticed only a handful of Filipinos in attendance. The turnout prodded her to form a team to raise awareness of domestic violence. She recruited volunteers and called themselves the Kumares and Kumpares, the Filipino American Outreach Volunteers of Cora.

In December 2006, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo named the Kumares among the Outstanding Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas for their work in domestic violence education.

Alice is the transformation of the Kumares and Kumpares into an all-volunteer group that will collaborate with different agencies and entities. The goal: to educate the community about various issues affecting immigrants such as mental health, human trafficking, substance, child and elder abuse, to start.

For more information, call Alice at (650) 878-4739.

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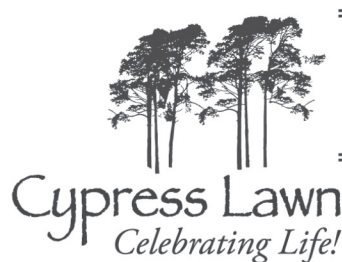
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