



Pinoy roadrunner

March 2007



Behind the Scenes of “The Great Raid”

By Tessie Greenfield

Hampton Sides, the best selling author of “Ghost Soldiers,” was a guest at an Albuquerque Book Club on February 19. He was promoting his third book (2006), “Blood and Thunder,” about a pivotal point in American history with New Mexico as its main landscape. The central characters are Kit Carson, the legendary trapper, scout and soldier and Narbona, a Navajo warrior.

I came along with my husband, Rand, a member of the Book Club, who invited Mr. Sides, a native of Tennessee who resides in Santa Fe, to attend. Mr. Sides’ first book was “Stomping Ground,” a book of stories about American subcultures, but it was his second book (2001), “Ghost Soldiers,” a high point of Filipino and American efforts during World War II, that made his mark as a historian. It became a best seller, the subject of a PBS documentary, “Bataan Rescue” (available from the FANHS RG Video Library. Visit www.pinoy-newmexico.com.) and the 2005 movie, “The Great Raid.”

I introduced myself as a Filipina. He told me that he was just in the Philippines for the anniversary of Corregidor. During his talk (which covered his other books), I asked why the producers (Miramax) didn’t use his book title, “Ghost Soldiers,” for the movie. He said that they thought it would sound like a horror movie. “The Great Raid” was an “action” title. Tom Hanks was originally cast but the role went to Benjamin Pratt (a “Law and Order” alumni) as Lt. Col. Henry Mucci. (As long as it’s not Bruce Willis, it’s fine by me.) I also asked where they filmed in the Philippines and I was shocked to learn that the movie was not filmed there but in Australia and some in Shanghai!!! If we looked closely at the movie, we would find Eucalyptus trees (in Cabanatuan?)!!! At one point in the filming, the crew had to stop because a kangaroo was hopping across the shot. (No kangaroos in the Philippines for sure!).

(Continued on page 2)



Hampton Sides and Tessie Greenfield

Do Money and Happiness Go Hand-in-Hand?

By Maida Ruaza-Malby

How many times have you said to yourself: If I only had a few extra thousand dollars a year, all my problems would be solved? The truth is that money usually has very little to do with your personal level of happiness. In and of itself, money possesses no value. It’s not the money – it’s how you use it that determines its worth. It’s important to realize that achieving your goals lies in your ability to see money for what it really is—a tool, no more, no less. Just as your car gets you from one destination to another, money is a financial tool that, when used correctly, can help you reach your goals.

Establish a “Wish List”

Deciding what is important to you is the first step to effective money management. Make a wish list of what you want for yourself and your family. Items such as a new home, new car, vacations, funding retirement or future college costs, or charitable donations may appear on your list. Next, prioritize your goals by deciding what is most important to you. Why? Because in a world of unlimited choices, you may have only limited resources. Finally, put a realistic price tag on each of your goals. For example, you may want \$100,000 for college in 20 years. Or, you may like to retire with a \$500,000 nest egg in 30 years.

How Do You Achieve These Goals?

Now that you have prioritized your goals, look to achieve short-term objectives through daily money management. A household budget may help you decrease credit card debt, build a savings account, save for vacations, etc. A budget may help you to revise your spending habits, cut costs, and achieve short-term goals.

For long-term objectives, your best bet is to start saving a specific amount on a systematic basis. The more disciplined you are, the better your chances. For example, to accumulate \$500,000 for retirement in 30 years, you will need to save about \$6,000 a year, or approximately \$500 a month. You will need to put aside nearly \$2,600 a year, or \$210 a month, for a \$100,000 college fund in 20 years. (These examples assume a 6 % rate of return and do not take into account the effect of current income taxes. They are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the return on a specific financial product.)

Set Realistic Goals and Manage Your Money Effectively

Money is not the source of happiness. But when used correctly, money can help you receive the most satisfaction out of what you earn, spend, and accumulate. When it comes to your money, it makes sense to seek the advice of professionals whose job it is to help people realize their goals. Talk to your insurance agent about insurance and other financial products that can help you achieve some of your goals. For more information, please contact Maida Ruaza-Malby, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company, at 505-8802191.

(Behind the Scenes of "The Great Raid")... continued from page 1)

With cheap labor and authentic sites, why was the Philippines not the logical location? It had something to do with the safety of and insurance for the cast and crew. The problems in Mindanao (even if the location was in Cabanatuan) and the notorious Abbu Sayaff group (known for kidnapping foreigners) didn't help the Philippines attract a project that could have employed a lot more Filipinos (in addition to Cesar Montano and a few Filipino cast members). Australia's movie industry also had better infrastructure. (I'd translate that as having better location sites, equipment, actors, crew, safer, and above all, a more stable government. Also how can we compete with Australia that has produced solid and bankable international actors like Russel Crowe, Nicole Kidman, Naomi Watts and Heath Ledger? That's how advanced they are.)

In the Feb. 25, 2007 issue of The New York Times Magazine, the Philippines had twenty full-page ads designed to lure US companies to invest in the Philippines. The ads flashed the smiling President Gloria Arroyo waving at the people. The ads highlighted finance, holdings, real estate, telecoms and tourism, including photos of the secretaries of different departments in the Philippine government. It was a good try but from an American investors' perspective, the bottom line is that if the Philippines could not assure safety, better infrastructure (like the movie industry) and stable government, even a hundred full-page ads would not lure others to invest in the Philippines. Losing the "The Great Raid" project to Australia was a lesson.

Grant Writing Workshop

by Tessie Greenfield

There are a lot of funds available statewide and nationwide for non-profit organizations for education, health, or cultural programs. Due to the importance of grant writing, Joby Wallace of the African American Assn. and Tessie Greenfield of the Asian American

Assn. of NM (and Filipino community) requested for a Grant Writing Workshop from Stop Tobacco on My People (STOMP) Inc.

The free 5-hour workshop was held on Feb. 3, 2007 at the Taylor Ranch Community Center in Albuquerque was conducted by Coletta Reid of STOMP, Inc. It covered a) basic understanding of the requirements of most grant applications, b) practice in writing goals, measurable objectives and activities, and c) understanding how to use evaluation to measure the success of these objectives.

The workshop was attended by 18 participants from the Asian, African, Native American communities and from other non-profit organizations. Among those who attended from the Filipino community were Cristal Everette, artistic director of the Kulintang Ensemble of Albuquerque, Myrna Samson of the Family Life Center and FAFNM Outreach Committee, and Tessie.

Currently, the grant writer is Dr. Dely Alcantara who has been responsible for getting funds for our cultural groups and oral history projects/workshops from the City of Albuquerque in the past. She has also obtained grants for the Asian American Assn. of NM and Bataan Corregidor Memorial Foundation. With three more people from the Filipino community and with Dely's supervision, we hope to be able to avail of more grants in the future.

Pinoy Kid Corner

by Ligaya White

For this quarter, our highlight for the first Pinoy Kid corner is John-Patrick Custodio. His outstanding contributions to the Filipino American Foundation of New Mexico (FAFNM), academic achievements and community service make him



John-Patrick Custodio

standout among his peers. John-Patrick was born in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio on February 15, 1989. He comes from big family of seven, and is raised with good moral values and religious beliefs. He is the middle child of Jim and Betsy Custodio and has four brothers: Dominic, Benedict, Joseph, and Michael. He is nicknamed "Trick" by his brothers, which is short for Patrick.

John-Patrick completed his elementary school education at Sandia Elementary School and attended Van Buren Middle School with high honors. As a senior at Highland High School, he will be graduating in May of this year with a GPA of 3.9--a very remarkable student!

His long time goal and dream is to attend the University of New Mexico and pursue his dream and long time ambition to major in animation.

His hobbies are drawing comic characters, listening to rock, punk or indie music, and playing video games. He loves to play guitar in the Burned Toast Band, of which he is also a founding member. John-Patrick's talents have helped us tremendously in the FAFNM's Outreach program. He participated in our Christmas caroling fund raising activity. In February of this year, he represented the Foundation during Asian American day at the New Mexico Legislature at the State Capital in Santa Fe and received a Certificate of Achievement from the House of Representatives of New Mexico.

In spite of his busy schedule in school, band practices, and work, he still finds time to do his school work, household chores, play in a band with his brother, as well as a variety of extracurricular activities and attend Sunday mass with his family. His family are active parishioners of Holy Child parish. He has been an active member of the FAFNM Cultural Dance Group since 2001. He is a skilled dancer in Tinikling, Carinyosa, Maglalatik, Subli, and Sayaw Bangko, and is currently choreographing the Maglalatik dance with other young students his age.

I'm honored to have John-Patrick in our Cultural Dance Group. He, not only, is an excellent dancer, musician, well-liked by his peers, and a big brother to the younger dancers, but, he is a very good role model. His parents have raised him to be very well-mannered and respectful, and it shows in the way he represents himself to his friends, students, teachers, our community and higher representatives in our state. We all admire him for his accomplishments, and appreciate all the help he has given us over the years and we are especially grateful to him and his parents for their outstanding involvement and contributions to the Foundation. Our very best wishes go out to John-Patrick in his future endeavors and may the good Lord continue to bless him!

National Alliance Mobilizes Around Congressional Hearings to Pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act

The newly formed National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity ("the National Alliance") announced its support for Congressional Hearings for HR 760, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. The bill was introduced on January 31, and would provide U.S. Veterans status for Filipinos who fought in World War II for purposes of benefits. Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA) announced February 15 hearings for the bill as Chairman of the

House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"The Alliance has brought together a broad base of support from the community to secure passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act," said Jon Melegrito, Co-Chair of the National Alliance. "We are pleased that Congressman Filner has continued to be a champion for this bill and has called for hearings. We are thankful to all of the members in Congress who have supported this important issue, notably Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Mike Honda, who heads the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and Sen. Daniel Inouye who has consistently introduced an equity bill in the Senate. We applaud their leadership in keeping the Filipino veterans cause alive."

"This month marks the 61st anniversary of passage of the 1946 Recission Act, which took away the veterans status that was originally promised to Filipino veterans when President Roosevelt conscripted them to help in the Pacific theater during World War II," said Lilian Galedo, the other National Alliance Co-Chair. "With many of this bill's champions in Congress now holding key positions to help move this bill, the time is right to restore justice for our veterans and reaffirm America's commitment to all those who bravely served the U.S. in times of war."

The National Alliance represents over 20 local, national and international organizations committed to securing full equity for Filipino World War II Veterans. All the groups have been part of a 60-year campaign to restore to Filipino WWII veterans their rightful claim to U.S. veterans status and recognition for their bravery in defending the United States during WWII. The National Alliance's sole purpose is to pass the long overdue Filipino Veterans Equity Act.

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Community News

● Eugene Zafra Jr., son of Consuelo (Chito) Zafra and his bride, Charito, were married last March 18 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. Eugene Jr. is a past president of the Fil-Am Association of NM (now Fil-Am Foundation of NM). They live in Houston, TX.

●Sima Greenfield, sophomore, Valley HS, won fourth place in Speech Competition (Oral Interpretation) contest hosted by Taos High School in February and won fourth place again for the same category in the State competition in March in Portales. Her subject was about Cultural Identity. It was her first Speech competition. She is a member of Valley's Speech and Debate Club.

●Chito Zafra spent her 85th birthday with her family and friends at the Redeemer Lutheran Church on March 12. Chito is one of the pioneer Filipinos in New Mexico who helped introduce the Santacruzian to Albuquerque.

●The Roundhouse in Santa Fe was alive with music and costumed people and there was the smell of delicious Pansit in the air. District 17 and Asian American Day brought many to the rotunda to sample food, enjoy music and dance groups. The Filipino American Foundation of New Mexico Cultural Dance Group performed Tinikling.

Senator Shannon Robinson and Representative Al Park presented certificates to 20 outstanding Asian American students and read a proclamation from the governor declaring February 8, 2007 as Asian American Day in New Mexico. Filipino students included Jami Rashid Abdullah, Marcy Banez, Kirstin Bowman, John-Patrick Custodio, Krystal Fournier, Leland Pascual and Sarah Rogers. Food and/or entertainment were also provided by Japanese, East Indian, Korean & Thai Cultural groups.



FAFNM Cultural Dance Group performing Tinikling at the State Capitol

The Pinoy Roadrunner is a joint publication of the Filipino-American Foundation of New Mexico (FAFNM) and the Filipino-American National Historical Society, Rio Grande Chapter (FANHS-RG).

The 2007 Board of Directors and Officers for the FAFNM are: Rod Ventura – President, Jim Custodio – Vice President, Maria Banez – Secretary, Cora Romillo – Treasurer, Evelio Sabay, Dely Alcantara, Cris Underwood, Bing Skyiepal, Ligaya White, Anthony Lagasca, Juanita Pascual, Jessica Pascual, Celia Tomlinson, Connie Perkins, and Myrna Samson.

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