

PRESS RELEASE

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DIVERSITY FORUM AT USF FEATURES THREE FILIPINO AMERICAN AUTHORS

The Asian American Studies Program and Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program at the University of San Francisco (USF) proudly join the Literacy Initiatives International Foundation (LIIF) in presenting “**Diversity In Filipino/Asian American Communities: Exploring Racial, Geographic and Generational Differences in Literature.**” This event will feature three highly-acclaimed Filipino American authors, Pati Poblete, Janet Stickmon and Peter Jamero, in conversation with educators Fr. Dennis Recio and Michael Gonzalez. It will be held at USF’s Fromm Institute’s Maraschi Room at 660 Parker Avenue, San Francisco on April 26 at 5:30 pm.

This colloquium is part of the ongoing series of *Conversations with Filipino/Filipino American Authors on Growing Up and Living in America* that are being held in various libraries, universities and other public venues in the Bay Area. *Conversations* is geared to promote the first-ever Filipino American International Book Festival (FilBookFest), which will gather authors of Filipino heritage based in the U.S. and abroad, Philippine and U.S. publishers, librarians, book dealers, academics and artists.

Kevin Chun, USF’s Director of the Asian American Studies, said the faculty of the sponsoring Programs thought it would be compelling to hear the selected authors spotlight on the diverse voices in Asian America that contribute to the richness and complexities of Asian American lives.

Pati Navalta Poblete’s memoir, “*The Oracles: My Filipino Grandparents in America,*” brings to light what happens when two sets of Filipino grandparents descend upon a Filipino American household to help raise their grandchildren, creating chaos and confusion especially when supernatural intervention is sought. Prior to joining Global Footprint Network as World Outreach and Media Director, Poblete was a journalist for 15 years, working as a columnist and editorial writer for the San Francisco Chronicle (a Pulitzer Prize nominee in editorial writing in 2006-2007), deputy editorial page editor for the *Honolulu Advertiser* and staff editor at numerous Bay Area daily newspapers.

Janet Stickmon is the author of *Crushing Soft Rubies*, a memoir that writes of struggle, independence, racial identity and self-acceptance. “From her childhood home being burned to the ground, to the joys and conflicts with her Filipino family, to seeking a connection to her African-American heritage, and then to the beautiful moment of her marriage, Janet navigates the rough waters of love, spirit, identity, and survival, maintaining a life filled with faith and wonder.” Stickmon is a professor at Napa Valley College, a wife and mother, and a Spoken Word artist.

Peter Jamero’s *Growing Up Brown: Memoirs of a Filipino American*, depicts the hardship and success, the struggle against racism and poverty of the “bridge generation” – American-born children of Filipinos largely recruited as farm workers during the 1920’s and 1930’s. His soon to be released book *Vanishing Filipino Americans: The Bridge Generation* is a sequel, delving into their maturation and contributions to society. Peter, who now lives in Atwater, CA, was formerly an assistant secretary at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and an assistant professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Washington.

FilBookFest will be held at the San Francisco Public Library on October 1-2, 2011 and is sponsored by the Literacy Initiatives International Foundation (LIIF) in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate of San Francisco and the Filipino American Center of the San Francisco Public Library.

For more information about the festival, visit its website at www.filbookfest.info or at <http://filbookfest.wordpress.com>.

For more information on how to be part of FilBookFest as an author, exhibitor, sponsor, donor or volunteer, email the Steering Committee at filbookfest@yahoo.com.