

PRESS RELEASE

Contact Persons: Tim Madigan (510) 245-2420
Estela Manila (510) 234-4523

HERCULES LIBRARY TO HOST TWO FILIPINO AMERICAN WOMEN AUTHORS

Two Filipino American women -- poet Barbara Jane Reyes and memoirist Janet Mendoza Stickmon – will read from their books and talk about *Living and Growing Up in America* at the Hercules Library, 109 Civic Drive, Hercules, California, on Saturday, April 9 at 2 pm.

Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Library and the Literacy Initiatives International Foundation (LIIF), lead organizer of the forthcoming Filipino American International Book Festival (FilBookFest), *Living and Growing Up in America* will feature Reyes and Stickmon in conversation with Edwin Lozada, president of the Philippine American Writers and Artists (PAWA). The public is invited. Admission is free.

Barbara Jane Reyes is the author of *Diwata*, a striking collection of poems woven between The Book of Genesis and Philippine Tagalog creation myth. *Diwata* is a moving narrative of split heritage and in-between traditions. Reyes was born in Manila, Philippines, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of two previous collections of poetry, *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003) and *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press, 2005), which received the James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets.

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 teacher, a wife and mother, and a Spoken Word artist.

Living and Growing Up in America is part of the series of *Conversations with Filipino/Filipino American Authors* that will be 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, 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.

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.