

PRESS RELEASE

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Filipino American author and educator Dr. Benito M. Vergara, Jr. and Daly City Council member Mike Guingona will be at the Serramonte Library Community Room from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on February 9 at 40 Wembley Drive, Daly City to talk about Vergara's latest book, *Pinoy Capital: The Filipino Nation in Daly City*. The free event is sponsored by the Daly City Library in cooperation with the Literacy Initiatives International Foundation (LIIF).

Vergara and Guingona will be joined by Erlinda Galeon, Daly City Public Library Trustee. Theresa Calpotura, a classical guitarist and music teacher, will open the evening with some classic Filipino guitar pieces.

This event marks the second of a series of "Conversations with Filipino Authors," being held in various Bay Area libraries as a build-up to the first Filipino American International Book Festival on October 1 and 2, 2011 at the San Francisco Public Library. 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, the book festival will gather Filipino authors based in the U.S., the Philippines and other countries, as well as Philippine and U.S. publishers, librarians, book dealers, academics, and artists.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Benito M. Vergara, Jr. is the author of *Displaying Filipinos: Photography and Colonialism in Early 20th-Century Philippines* (University of the Philippines Press, 1995) and *Pinoy Capital: The Filipino Nation in Daly City* (Temple University Press, 2009). He got his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University and has taught Asian American Studies and Anthropology at different universities in the San Francisco Bay Area. He also writes about movies at <http://filmeyeballsbrain.com>.

Home to 33,000 Filipino American residents, Daly City, California, located just outside of San Francisco, has been dubbed "the Pinoy Capital of the United States." In this fascinating ethnographic study of the lives of Daly City residents, Benito Vergara shows how Daly City has become a magnet for the growing Filipino American community.

Vergara challenges rooted notions of colonialism here, addressing the immigrants' identities, connections and loyalties. Using the lens of transnationalism, he looks at the "double lives" of both recent and established Filipino Americans. Vergara explores how first-generation Pinoys experience homesickness precisely because Daly City is filled with reminders of their homeland's culture, like newspapers, shops and festivals. Vergara probes into the complicated, ambivalent feelings these immigrants have—toward the Philippines and the United States—and the conflicting obligations they have presented by belonging to a thriving community and yet possessing nostalgia for the homeland and people they left behind.

With long-time Daly City public official Mike Guingona as interviewer, this "conversation" with Vergara promises to be an enlightening and informative discussion not only about Daly City but of Filipino American lives as well.