

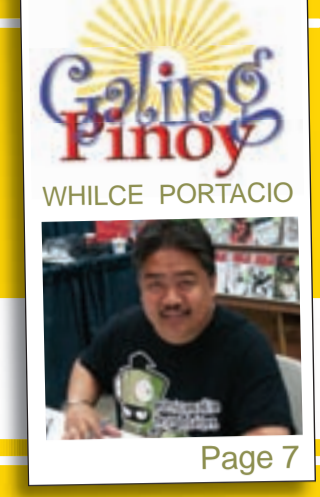
VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION

This seal signifies that THE ASIAN JOURNAL has met or exceeded Verified's standard of 90% Accuracy of Claimed Circulation.

Verified Audit Circulation Annual Audit Report 2007-08

# ASIAN JOURNAL

The man behind the X-Men



www.asian

JOURNAL.com

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## Christmas, LA style

LA Live holiday party kicks off



(L-R): Comedian Adam Carolla, singer Britney Spears, Los Angeles councilwoman Jan Perry, and mayor Antonio Villaraigosa are seen at the LA Live entertainment complex holiday tree lighting ceremony in Los Angeles on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008. AP Photo by Dan Steinberg

THE Christmas season opens in true Los Angeles fashion as the grand opening of the \$2.5 billion entertainment district in downtown Los Angeles, dubbed as LA Live, kicked off last December 4.

Hailed by developers as a West Coast version of New York's Times Square, LA Live's debut gets bigger and more seasonal with "The Light of the Angels," a seven-minute, full-on, lights holiday display running every night on the hour starting December 4 until New Year's Eve.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa graced the opening last Thursday night, along with pop princess Britney Spears, who shared the candy cane switch with him to light the 54-foot metal Christmas tree on Nokia Plaza.

A number of restaurants and entertainment venues in the project near Staples Center have been open for months. The 7,100-seat Nokia Theatre stands out, because of having hosted the Emmy Awards and Grammy Awards nomination concert last December 3.

The Grammy Museum that shows off a collection of artifacts and interactive exhibits which will excite music fans, will be open to the public on December 6.

By early 2010, LA Live will include a 54-story, 1,001-room convention "headquarters" destination, featuring the Ritz Carlton and JW Marriott hotels and 224 luxury condominiums, which will be known as The Ritz Carlton Residences at LA Live.

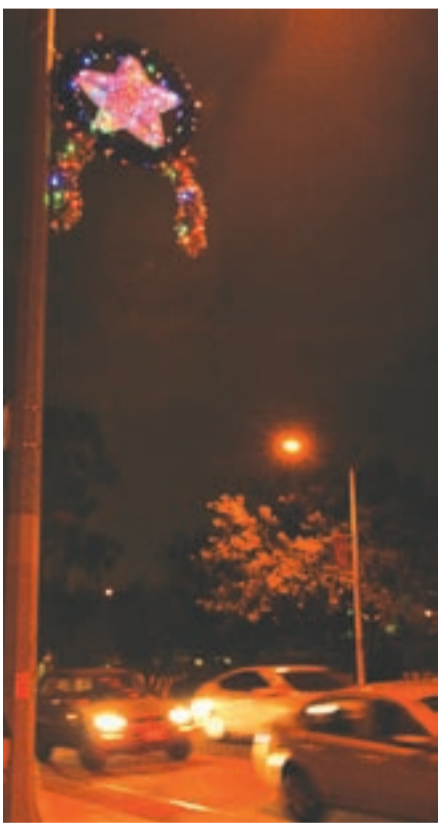
Other establishments like The Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes and Lounge, Club Nokia LA Live and ESPN Zone restaurant are already open at the site. (AJPress)

## Christmas 'parols' light up Historic Filipinotown

by RENE VILLAROMAN AJPress

HISTORIC Filipinotown—A project to hang Christmas lanterns along a two-mile stretch of Temple Street here has been realized when officers of the Historic Filipinotown Neighborhood Council inaugurated the lighting of some two dozen parols (Christmas lanterns) recently with program at the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) headquarters here.

"This project signals a revival of a tradition which was started in the Philippines some 500 years ago," declared Cecille Ramos, President of Hi Fi Neighborhood Council. "It was started by a Spanish priest who used lighted parols to guide the farmers to the church at 4 o'clock in the morning where an early Mass—which was called *misa de gallo* (early morning Mass), was held."



▶ PAGE A4

AJPress Photo by Andy Tecson

# THE FIGHT

AJ talks to Oscar, Hatton and Sugar about the 'Dream Match'

FOR whatever it's worth, Manny Pacquiao has history on his ringside tonight. "It has happened," Bert Sugar, the legendary boxing Hall of Fame historian, tells the *Asian Journal*. "Bob Fitzsimmons, a middle weight champion, beat Gentleman Jim Corbett in 1896 by jumping two weight classes, and his line was 'the bigger they are, the harder they fall,' Sugar Ray Leonard did it to [Marvin] Hagler. [Pacquiao] can do it. They say a good big man can beat a good little man, but how good was the good big man and how good was the little man?"

Ricky Hatton, waiting in the wings for his own shot at history, thinks otherwise. But if you read between Angelo's lines in Dundee's conversation with AJ's Joseph Pimentel, it's not really a 'Dundee' deal. The *Asian Journal* is caught up in the story of the moment. Or is it history once more or just another dream?

But let's go to the MGM Grand and watch which lion sleeps tonight. One thing is certain though, whatever happens Saturday night in Vegas, doesn't stay there. —AJPress

▶ RELATED STORIES PAGES 13 & 16



Oscar De La Hoya and Manny Pacquiao weigh in for their welterweight non-title bout at the MGM Grand. AJPress Photo by Robert Macabagal

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL AJPress

AS VEGAS—Ricky Hatton is sitting pretty in the catbird seat. No matter who wins the fight Saturday night, Hatton can ensure himself another big multi-million dollar bout come the New Year.

Hatton is almost assured to fight the winner of the Oscar De La Hoya vs. Manny Pacquiao "Dream Match" scheduled at the MGM Grand on Saturday.

"The Hitman" Hatton said he prefers to face Pacquiao, but doesn't mind fighting De La Hoya, if he wins.

"Of course, I'd like to go against Manny," said Hatton to the *Asian Journal*. "[But] if Oscar wins, obviously you're fighting the biggest name in the sport, but if I fight Manny, it could be for the [mythical] pound-for-pound title. He's considered the best. I'd like my chance

▶ PAGE A2

## JDV launches book at Natori's NY showroom

by MOMAR G. VISAYA AJPress

NEW YORK—He may no longer be the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines but everywhere he goes, Jose De Venecia, Jr. still gets called Mr. Speaker. Even in New York, where he launched his biography, aptly called *Global Filipino: The Authorized Biography of Jose De Venecia* on Thursday, Dec. 4.

The setting couldn't have been better.

Guests were welcomed to the Madison Avenue main showroom of Josie Natori, herself a global Filipino who has made a huge name in the fashion industry. Natori was the evening's gracious host, mingling with the guests and obliging for the requisite photo opportunities.



DATELINE USA FROM THE AJPRESS NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA



New York-based Filipino designer Josie Natori, Congressman Jose de Venecia, Loida Nicolas-Lewis and Gina de Venecia at the launching of "Global Filipino," the former Speaker's authorized biography held at the Natori showroom on Madison Avenue. AJPress Photo by Momar G. Visaya

▶ PAGE A2

The perfect gift. For anyone. For any occasion.

SolidLocks GIFT CARD

To: A Special Gift For You. From:

See inside ad for details and a very Special Offer!

Holiday Store Hours:  
Dec. 24: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Dec. 25: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Jan. 1: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ATTY. JOHNNY ASCANO  
YOUR BEST IMMIGRATION BANKRUPTCY & CRIMINAL DEFENSE OPTION

24/7 Phone: (213) 248-1726  
Office #: (213) 637-5609  
Fax #: (213) 251-9650  
www.johnnyascano.com

"We are a federally designated debt relief agency pursuant to title 11 of the US Code. We provide legal assistance and help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code."

3550 Wilshire Blvd., 17th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010

PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE. CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED

Become a CCS CERTIFIED MEDICAL CODER at HOPE OF ST. JAMES LEARNING CENTER

NOW IN 2 LOCATIONS GLENDALE AND COVINA

Call (626) 339.8853 / (626) 506.5300