

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



**ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL**

THE US State Department recently announced the opening of the registration period for the Diversity Visa Lottery. This lottery is for a special class of immigrants, known as "diversity immigrants," where a maximum of 55,000 diversity visas are made available to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the US.

"Low rates of immigration to the US," means that the diversity lottery is available to people from countries that have sent no more than 50,000 immigrants to the US over the past 5 years. Obviously, Filipinos are NOT ELIGIBLE for the diversity visa lottery. This is because, as everyone knows, more than 50,000 Filipinos have immigrated to the US in the previous 5 years. In fact, the Philippines has one of the highest rates of immigration to the US of any country. The backlogs, waiting times, or priority dates, are so long because so many Filipinos are

# Beware of Visa Lottery scams

under petition and are hoping to immigrate to the US.

The reason I bring up the diversity lottery is that I know that many Filipinos are desperate to immigrate to the US, and will cling to any hope, promise, or program that could help them immigrate to the US, whether they are qualified or not. (In the past, Filipinos would apply for asylum, claiming "persecution" by the NPA. They would file for amnesty, asserting that they were in the US before 1982. They might have also filed for the SAW program, claiming that they worked on the farms in the mid 80's. Even though they were not qualified, some Filipinos nevertheless went ahead and applied.

I have also seen ads in Filipino newspaper, both in the US and in the Philippines, where people or companies are offering, for a fee, to assist people in submitting their diversity lottery application. However, the law is crystal clear: Filipinos are not eligible for the diversity visa lottery program. No matter how much (or how little) these people may charge for assisting

you in applying for this lottery program, you are wasting your money. Do not waste your time and money applying for something that you are not eligible for. Instead, if you would like immigrate to the US or legalize your status in the US, I would recommend that you seek the advice of a reputable attorney, who can evaluate your situation and determine if there are possible legitimate ways for you to obtain a green card.

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Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of, an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different. The information contained herein (including testimonials, "Success Stories," endorsements and re-enactments) is of a general nature, and is not intended to apply to any particular case, and does not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established with any reader.

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EXCLUSIVE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPINE ENTERTAINMENT'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMAN, ON 'CITIZEN PINOY': Ms. Charo Santos, popularly and lovingly referred to as 'Ate Charo' on the multi-awarded and longest running drama anthology program on Philippine television, 'Maalaala Mo Kaya,' will share her valuable insights and life's lessons, as she joins attorney-to-the-stars Michael J. Gurfinkel for a very rare and special one-on-one interview for this encore presentation of 'Citizen Pinoy' on TFC:

**TELECAST SCHEDULE**

TFC	Sundays Wednesdays	5:40pm PST 12:15am PST	original replay
ANC US	Sundays Sundays Thursdays	1am PST 9am PST 8am PST	original replay replay
ANC PHIL	Sundays Mondays	4pm Phil 12am Phil	original replay

## MoneyGram Int'l supports recovery in RP with Red Cross donation and reduced money transfer fees from the US and Canada to RP

**\$2 fee reduction for dollar-to-peso payout runs Oct. 2 to Oct. 16**

MINNEAPOLIS—MoneyGram International (NYSE:MGI), a leading global payment services company, announced today that it would make a \$20,000 MoneyGram Global Giving grant to the American Red Cross for relief in the Philippines, and implement a temporary reduction in money transfer fees, as part of a coordinated effort with its money transfer agents in response to the historic-level of devastation from Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) hit the Philippines on Saturday.

"MoneyGram is eager to help Filipinos continue their recovery and respond to the urgent needs in the communities devastated by Ondoy," said Dan O'Malley, senior vice president and president of the Americas. "In addition, MoneyGram understands how vital it is for families and friends to support one another especially in times of great need. To provide the greatest immediate benefit to affected families, MoneyGram is offering reduced fees for transactions sent to the Philippines from our North American agents, including large U.S. retailers and Canada Post."

The \$2 fee reduction for dollar-to-peso payout is available from Oct. 2 – Oct. 16 at all North American MoneyGram agent locations, including Walmart, CVS/pharmacy, ACE Cash Express, AdvanceAmerica, Canada Post and the SuperValu locations operating under a variety of brands including ACME, Albertsons, bigg's, Bristol Farms, Cub Foods, Farm Fresh, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaws Star Market, Shop'n Save and SHOPPERS.

"We hope this effort by MoneyGram and our agents will assist our customers in maximizing the funds sent to loved ones," O'Malley said. "Most of our agent locations in the Philippines have remained open since Ondoy and locations in the hardest hit areas are working to restore services to ensure funds are available for the people who need help the most."

The MoneyGram Global Giving Program issues grants to organizations around the globe, including those that respond in times of disaster. The program also awards grants for basic needs and essential literacy and education. Last year, MoneyGram awarded funds to programs in more than 20 countries. More information is available at [www.moneygram.com/giving](http://www.moneygram.com/giving).

(Advertising Supplement)

## Madz re-visits Secaucus

By **RICHARD M. REYES**

SECAUCUS, NJ—The last time I heard The Philippine Madrigal Singers was on a 33 LP record. Growing up in the US, having heard the world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers perform Filipino traditional folksongs is a special occasion because they are blessed with talent to make these songs alive. As a result, they bring back the most positive memories we have of the Philippines. On the evening of September 26, 2009, I had the opportunity to listen to them live for the first time. Before the show started, I was courteously reminded to be mindful of the "clicking" noise the camera makes while taking photos during pianissimo moments. I replied by saying, "...then I will play it by ear." The Immaculate Conception Church on Paterson Plank Road was a full house. The performance started a little after the scheduled time of 7:30pm to accommodate the arrival of first-time and veteran Madz fans. Of course, Madz is not a first-comer here either; they previously performed in Secaucus at the Arthur F. Couch Performing Arts Center back in September 2007.

I was curious to know why they would sing from a seated position. Although it might seem more difficult to sing while seated; I was told it actually provides a comfortable position for performing. It was evident since the group sang for two hours and took only one 15-minute interlude.

There were 23 members

present of the ensemble led by Choirmaster Mark Anthony A. Carpio. Mr. Carpio had a great responsibility and honor in leading 22 extremely talented singers. Of course, good vocals combined with topnotch compositions and arrangements are keys to complete the package of this elite group. An example of an arrangement that receives praise every time it is performed is Gloria arranged by Michael Dadap.

Into the third month of the four and a half month world tour, they have completed the Asian and European portions and are in the middle of the North American portion. There were attendees here who also attended the earlier performance in New York. After hearing them perform, I understand why. One of the things that makes this group spectacular is not just that each individual has natural abilities honed with years of training; it is the fact that when they are together they sound as one. They were amazing!

Being a fan of *acapella* music I had wondered whether or not full attention could be sustained throughout the show. Flawless! The audience was captivated the entire time. Some of the pieces that received audience partition were from the popular music selection: *Night and Day*, *Hymne a l'amour*, *How did you know?*, *Superman "Remixed"*, *ABBAcapella*. Encores included *Circle of Life* and the *William Tell Overture*. *Circle of Life* almost

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LIVE AT  
**CARNEGIE HALL**  
 FOR THE BENEFIT OF GAWAD KALINGA

**STEPHANIE REESE**

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**Sat, Nov. 7th - 7:30 PM**  
**ZANKEL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL**  
 Seventh Avenue between 56th and 57th Streets

**Tickets \$75-\$135 CarnegieCharge 212-247-7800 Info 212-417-0419**  
Women and performed by Stephanie Reese for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga, a global effort that raises money to build homes and communities for poor families in the Philippines.  
**Executive Producers:** Sylvia Cancio, Pete Domingo, Shirley Domingo **Line Producer:** Elton Lugay

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