

**WISH LIST**

**Gina Alajar**

AT MY AGE NOW, all I can wish for is continuous good health so that I can still fulfill my many obligations and responsibilities. For my children, I pray for continued success, for more job offers. For the industry, I hope it will be more active again.

I hope *Ded na si Lolo*, our country's entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the Oscars, will get recognized abroad. That can revive the movie industry.

I pray for more jobs for my colleagues and our countrymen. I wish the world of show business will be a better place to live in—that people will become more professional.

For our country, I pray that we'll be able to elect good leaders next year. We need a government that will change the system and how the world looks at our country. (*Inquirer.net*)

**SOUNDS FAMILIAR**

by **BABY A. GIL**  
*Philstar.com*

SHE was ditched by a Jonas brother. I think it was Joe, the middle one, and over the phone at that. She was dissed by Kanye West at the MTV Video Music Awards. Must have been traumatic experiences but I am sure Taylor Swift is past all that now. If she were the type, she can now very well afford to thumb her pretty nose at her "persecutors" and say, "Hey guys, take a look at me now."

Or maybe take a look at the charts. She has the most hit singles by any female act in pop music history, including Beyoncé. Among these are current tween anthems like *Love Story*, *You Belong With Me*, *White Horse*, *Forever And Always* and *Fifteen*. She has the biggest sales by any artist in 2009, over four million CDs sold of Taylor Swift and Fearless.

There are also the Artist Of The Year Award from Billboard Magazine, bible of the music industry; the Academy of Country Music Entertainer Of The Year Award. She is the youngest recipient in history. She has lots of other trophies from the CMA, the MTV Video Music Awards, the American Music Awards and others plus some Grammy nominations and most probably some of those little gramophone trophies to take home after the Grammy Awards in February 2010.

For a while there, I thought the year would go to Lady Gaga. She was selling big. She was interesting and different and made some hits, *Just Dance*, *Poker Face* and *Paparazzi*. Beyoncé also came on strong with *Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)* and *Halo*. It could have also been Miley who remained consistent in the charts with *The Climb* and *Party In The USA*. The Black Eyed Peas did not do so bad either. *Boom Boom Pow* and *I Got A Feeling*.

But in the end, it was the 20-year-old Taylor Alison Swift, whose efforts at writing poems since she was eight and songs since she was 11 are paying off big. Of course she also has the looks and the talent. That sweet voice melts hearts, though not those of Joe's and Kanye's. Ironically, Kanye was Billboard's choice for Male Artist of the Year. Taylor was the female one and she was the one who emerged over-all winner.

Back to Taylor. I believe the main reason for her success is her wide appeal. Her demographics is incredible. I'd say ages 6 to 60 or more, which you cannot really say of Miley's music. Then she is a country artist. Country music has a huge market and when somebody like Taylor crosses over to the even bigger pop music market, you can only expect fireworks. Very loud and incredibly bright.

And now, the top ten titles in Billboard's Top 200 Albums in the Best of 2009 led by *Fearless* by Taylor Swift. The rest are *I Am...Sasha Pierce* by Beyoncé; *Dark Horse* by Nickelback; *Twilight*, the motion picture soundtrack by Various Artists; *Hannah Montana: The Movie*, the soundtrack feat. Miley Cyrus and others; *Circus* by Britney Spears; *808s & Heartbreak* by Kanye West; *The Fame* by Lady Gaga; *Relapse* by Eminem; and *The E.N.D.* by The Black Eyed Peas.

The Top 10 in the Hot 100 Song List for 2009 are: *Boom Boom Pow* by The Black Eyed Peas; *Poker Face* by Lady Gaga; *Just Dance* also by Lady Gaga; *I Gotta Feeling* also by The Black Eyed Peas; *Love Story* by Taylor Swift; *Right Round* by Flo Rida; *I'm Yours* by Jason Mraz; *Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)* by Beyoncé; *Heartless* by Kanye West; and *Gives You Hell* by The All American Rejects.

Now, there must be some of you out there who, like me, are wondering about where oh where is Michael Jackson. After all, his sudden death threw the world into a Jackson listening frenzy and he probably sold a lot of CDs. As far as I know, the Top 200 Albums and Hot 100 charts only list down current releases.

**2009 is the year of Taylor Swift**



Swift: The main reason for her success is her wide appeal. Those that are I think over three or more years go to the Catalogue tabulation. I checked the Billboard website and saw some Michael CDs there along with Elvis, The Beatles and some Christmas releases. ■

**The blockbusters of 2009**

by **JOY JONETTE CHUYACO**  
*Philstar.com*

MANILA - Happy New Year to all! Time passes by so fast; another year is about to begin. But just before that, here's a review of the most-loved movies of 2009. In general, the year has brought a number of sequels that viewers seem to prefer and enjoy. Animations and other movies for kids were an instant hit, as always. Sci-fi and action films were not that many unlike the previous years. There were some romantic movies but most of them got just a fair amount of viewers' attention. In spite of the great effort of movie makers, horror films were a bit weak this year.

Here is a list of the blockbusters of 2009 (in no particular order):

**New Moon**  
After the phenomenal success of *Twilight* last 2008, it was already expected that a sequel is soon to come. *New Moon* is the continuation to the love story of a human and a vampire. As the story gets deeper, more and more characters are getting involved between Bella and Ed-



PAGE B8 ►

**The Venetian Palace**  
BANQUET HALL

A FIVE-STAR BANQUET HALL & EXECUTIVE GOURMET KITCHEN  
• WEDDING • DEBUT • BIRTHDAY • BABY BRIDAL SHOWER • GRADUATION • CORPORATE  
SPECIALIZING IN MANY CUISINES INCLUDING AMERICAN & ITALIAN.

The Venetian Palace is a One-Stop Shopping Banquet Hall. Packages include Banquet Hall, Linens, Catering, Cleaning, Security, DJ, Cake, Flower Centerpieces, Choreography, Open Bar, Limousine, Photography and Video. We can help with your invitations, Halls and headche FREE!

The Hidden Jewel in the San Fernando Valley  
Voted Top 5 Best Venue in 2008 & 2009 by MyFoxLA Hot List & Fox 11  
Experience The Venetian Palace Where Dreams Come True!  
818-343-1161 • 6740 CORBIN AVE., RESEDA • WWW.VENETIANPALACE.COM  
AVAIL OF OUR SPECIAL DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD

**HAIR REBONDING**  
Japanese Magic Straight Perm

You look better and feel better!

- No more curly or kinky hair
- Keeps hair straight for 6 months or longer

**ONLY \$120!**  
Includes haircut and treatment conditioner

**GINA KIM** Hair Designer  
FOR APPOINTMENTS ONLY  
ginakim617@yahoo.com

**(213) 503-2199**  
1032 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite D Los Angeles, CA 90019  
Located at Los Angeles City, Koreatown Place  
(Take I-10 W, exit Crenshaw, turn right, proceed along Crenshaw and arrive on the right-side between Pico and Olympic)

**RAYMOND LOTUACO D.D.S.**  
General Practice and Cosmetic Dentistry

23501 Cinema Drive Suite 207, Valencia CA 91355  
(661) 753-9456 • www.myvalenciadentist.com •

We offer free consultation, 0% interest, deferred copayments.

Services offered:  
Braces, whitening, RCT, extractions, Fillings, Crowns, Veneers, Dentures etc.

Most Insurances Accepted: Delta, Aetna, Cigna, United Concordia, Dental etc

Business Hours: M-Sat 8:30am-6:00pm  
Serving Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas  
(San Fernando Valley, Valencia, Canyon Country, Saugus, Castaic, Newhall, Palmdale and Lancaster)

Avail of our "SMILE NOW PAY LATER" program  
Call for more details

**Unity in the Community**

**IN REUNION THERE IS STRENGTH.**

In our continuing efforts to serve the Fil-Am Community, Asian Journal will be featuring profiles of Filipino-American associations here in the United States.

**ASIAN JOURNAL**  
The Filipino American Community Newspaper

Please submit a brief background of your association, a list of current officers and your contact information for the benefit of our readers who may want to get in touch with you.

FAX. (213) 481-0854 • Email. pr@asianjournalinc.com