



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Communications Department

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Central Library Marks 50th Anniversary of Delano Grape Strike Led by Filipino Workers which Jumpstarted the United Farm Worker Movement

The Honorable Rob Bonta, first Filipino American elected to the California State Legislature to appear

San Diego, CA...Silayan Filipina, the Filipino American National Historical Society and the San Diego Public Library present a special screening and discussion of the 2015 Emmy-nominated film *Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers* on Saturday, September 19 at 6:00 pm in the Neil Morgan Auditorium at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. September 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Delano Grape Strike of 1965, led by Filipino labor organizers, which jumpstarted the united farm worker movement under the eventual leadership of Cesar Chavez.

Delano Manongs will be hosted award-winning director Marissa Aroy and the **Honorable Rob Bonta**, California Assembly Member and the first Filipino American elected to the California Legislature, representing the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2013, Assemblymember Bonta introduced legislation signed into law by Governor Brown that requires California public schools to teach students the contributions of Filipino Americans in the farm labor movement.

Directed by Marissa Aroy, *Delano Manongs* tells the story of one of the American labor movement's finest hours – the Delano Grape Strike of 1965 that brought about the creation of the United Farm Workers Union. While the movement is known for Cesar Chavez's leadership and considered a Chicano movement, Filipinos played a pivotal role. Filipino labor organizers, Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz, organized a group of 1500 Filipinos to strike against the grape growers of Delano, California, beginning a collaboration between Filipinos, Chicanos and other ethnic workers that changed the nation for the better.

[Silayan Filipina](#) is a Filipina American women's service organization dedicated to educational outreach, community service, and cultivating the Philippine heritage. This dynamic sisterhood builds networks and relationships between multi-generations, and strives to positively impact society by empowering their members, providing Filipina American women role models, and through community service.

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Founded in 1982, the mission of the Filipino American National Historical Society, [San Diego Chapter](#) is to promote understanding, education, enlightenment, appreciation, and enrichment through the identification, gathering, preservation, and dissemination of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the U.S. FANHS was the prime mover behind the establishment of October as Filipino American Month which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2009.

[Assemblymember Rob Bonta](#) was elected to the California State Assembly's 18th District in 2012, where he represents the cities of Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro as the first Filipino American state legislator in the history of California. His father was involved in the Civil Rights Movement, and stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Deep South – marching for equality and justice in Selma. His mother continues to be a long-time leader in the Filipino social justice movement.

In addition to *Delano Manongs*, filmmaker [Marissa Aroy](#) has received an Emmy for the documentary *Sikhs in America*” which was shown on PBS. She produced and directed *Little Manila: Filipinos in California’s Heartland* also for PBS and produced *Sounds of Hope* for Frontline World. Aroy holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston College and a master’s degree in journalism from University of California, Berkeley.

Learn about One Book One San Diego and other programs at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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