

Filipino-American Heritage Month Activities in Kodiak

Tuesday, 05 June 2012

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

With help from \$9,000 across two grants, the Baranov Museum is presenting several events as part of Filipino American Heritage Month. Tonight at 7 p.m. there will be a lecture and discussion with E.J. David (DA'-vid), an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the author of the book "Filipino-American Postcolonial Psychology."

Filipino-American Heritage Month activities continue at the A. Holmes Johnson Library Wednesday with a drive to collect photographs from Filipino-related family events in Kodiak over the last century. Though Filipino-Americans make up a third of the city's population, the museum has virtually no archival photos from the community. People are encouraged to bring in photos tomorrow night from 5:30 to 7:30 where they will be scanned for inclusion in the museum's collection. Images from community events, the workplace, portraits, weddings and other celebrations are welcomed.

-- (Baranov 1 39 sec "It's really about the injustices ... about in the Filipino community.")

David says his book is about the psychological and mental health consequences of colonial mentality and how it affects Filipino identity and self-esteem.

-- (Baranov 2 29 sec "The main reason I decided to ... for many generations.")

David was born in the Philippines, but moved to Barrow as a young teen, and says he has witnessed and experienced the effects of colonial mentality himself:

-- (Baranov 3 45 sec "In modern times you will often ... English are looked down upon.")

He says the message of his book is not to get Filipinos or Filipino-Americans angry, but to recognize their heritages as a whole:

-- (Baranov 4 41 sec "I am both Filipino and American ... and as equally valuable.")

Though the titles of David's book and lecture sound academic, he says the talk tonight is

suitable for middle- and high-schoolers as well as adults. The talk is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Baranov Museum.

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