

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 ◆

MEDICAL TOURISM BOOMING IN THE PHILIPPINES

COVER STORY PAGE

4



OP-ED

3 DEVELOPER'S AGENDA THREATENS COMMUNITY



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

9 ON DUTERTE, HITLER & RESOLVING A HERO'S BURIAL FOR MARCOS



PHILIPPINE NEWS

14 YASAY ON U.S.: DON'T LECTURE US ON HUMAN RIGHTS

INSIDE ► **WOMEN'S HEALTH** Supplement

Cover Story: What's In Your DNA? You'll Be Surprised

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EDITORIAL

Philippines' Fast Growing Medical Tourism Industry

The Philippines' famed hospitality, pristine beaches and world-class shopping malls have long attracted visitors to its shores. However, a new kind of tourist has been flocking to the land of 7,107 islands of late. These are people seeking high quality and affordable medical procedures such as plastic surgery, organ transplants, hip and knee replacements, eye operations and dental care—to name just a few. In 2015, an estimated 200,000 medical tourists traveled to the Philippines for various procedures—more than double the 100,000 arrivals in 2008—resulting in revenues of some \$3 billion.

To meet demand, the Philippines' newest and most modernized hospitals have been built close to tourist areas with stunning beaches and relaxing settings that promote healing and recovery. These private hospitals have medical facilities that are on par with hospitals in the West and provide accommodations similar to five-star hotels. For example, St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City opened in 2010 and is the Philippines' first hospital designed specifically for medical tourism. It is regarded as the nation's top hospital and is better equipped than 95 percent of the hospitals in the U.S. Following their medical procedures, patients can recover at a spa, then tour any of the world class tourism sites nearby.

Not surprisingly, third party companies are capitalizing on the Philippines' booming medical tourism industry, offering medical tourists a full range of services from private, chauffeured-driven rides from the airport to and from the hospital, cellular phones, nurses, caregivers and even translators. These companies have partnered with the Philippines' premiere hospitals, clinics, health spas, hotels and airlines to offer medical tourists the very best amenities and experience.

Philippine tourism officials are hoping to one day reap the benefits of 1 million medical tourists. But before reaching that mark, the government needs to do much more—upgrade public infrastructure, provide more funds for global marketing and issue special medical visas for foreigners. A robust medical tourism industry could also mean fewer doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals leaving each year to work overseas. For obvious reasons, the Philippines cannot afford to lose thousands of these highly-trained and qualified medical professionals. The bottom line is that the Philippines stands to reap huge financial and social benefits from medical travel, if it plays its cards right. Let's hope that President Duterte and his administration realize the possibilities and capitalize on this potential windfall.

Trump Made Election About Race: It's Time He Pay for Miscalculation

Too little, too late. Donald Trump's late-game outreach to minority communities—his 10-minute address to a Black congregation in Detroit, his opportunist trip to meet Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto in hopes of quelling Mexican Americans' ire—spells d-e-s-p-e-r-a-t-i-o-n, and frankly just looks awkward as awkward can be.

The damage inflicted by Trump upon American minorities cannot simply be reversed or easily forgiven. Polls show that Trump is doing worse among minorities than any Republican presidential candidate in history. A survey by America's Voice and Latino Decisions, which asked 3,729 Latino registered voters online and by phone who they would vote for, found only 19 percent of respondents plan to vote for Trump. Just how damning is this for Trump? Republican presidential candidates who failed to get elected received more votes by Hispanics than what Trump

FROM THE PUBLISHER



he hepatitis A outbreak just doesn't seem to end. The latest case involves a Sam's Club-Pearl City seafood handler who tested positive for the disease, bringing the total number of cases to 271

since the outbreak began several months ago. According to the State Department of Health, more cases may be confirmed through at least early October due to the long incubation period for hepatitis A. In the meantime, let's continue taking preventative measures against this disease.

Our cover story for this issue delves into the Philippines' booming medical tourism industry. The Philippines ranks eighth among the world's top medical tourism destinations, ahead of countries such as France and Japan. The growth of the medical tourism industry is good news since it will further diversify the Philippines' economy and also provide a boost for the hospitality, food and beverage and customer service industries. To learn more about this fast-growing industry, please turn to page 4 for contributing writer Seneca Moraleda-Puguan's story entitled "Medical Tourism: It's More Fun in the Philippines."

In other news, controversy is brewing in the Ewa Beach community over a request by developer Haseko Inc., to rezone 62 acres and use the land to develop a recreational lagoon that will be surrounded by resort, residential, business and open spaces. Honolulu City Councilmember Kymberly Marcos Pine, who represents Ewa Beach, details her concerns about the proposal in her Op-Ed column "Developer's Agenda Threatens Community" on page 3. Read her column and see if you agree with her or not.

Each September, the Chronicle produces a special Women's Health Supplement. We've included in this issue a special 12 page supplement on women's health. Of particular interest is an article by Christine Sabado, the Chronicle's Maui correspondent, about the latest trend to discover more about your family lineage using DNA test kits. To find out how the process works, please turn to page S3 for "What's In Your DNA? You Will Be Surprised." I hope that you will take some time to read the many other useful articles on improving and maintaining your health. You'll be glad you did!

In closing, thank you once again for your faithful support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to email us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. We would love to hear from you!

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



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is expected to bring in—Bob Dole (21 percent), John McCain (31 percent), and Mitt Romney (27 percent). The narrative becomes grows more bleak when considering that the Hispanic population is much larger today, from 14.8 million people in 1980 to 55.2 million in 2014.

Trump fares even worse among Black Americans. An NBC News-Wall Street Journal-Marist poll shows that only 6 percent of black voters nationally plan to support Trump. In a Quinnipiac poll, only 1 percent of blacks favor a Trump presidency. It gets worse regionally, believe it or not. In the same Wall Street Journal poll, Trump received 0 percent of the votes from blacks in two key battleground states, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Racially Divided Presidential Election

The racial divide this election is foreboding of a host of problems should Trump win. In fact, Trump's unstable temperament or novice preparation to serve as commander-in-chief, or his radical policies that test the limits of constitutionality, all might just be secondary to a potentially bigger problem—that Trump could be the most divisive leader ever elected in modern U.S. history.

National unity has been the key component to national sta-

(continued on page 3)

OP-ED

Developer's Agenda Threatens Community

by Kimberly Marcos Pine

A recent letter sent by Haseko Inc. to thousands of Ocean Pointe and Hoakalei residents regarding the proposed Hoakalei Master Plan is extremely misleading. In the letter, Haseko President Tom Sagawa said if their project does not pass out of committee, it could lead to "job loss for thousands of people dependent on our project for their livelihood."

The letter also states "Pre-leasing for the retail/ entertainment/ dining center and negotiations with resort operators will have to stop." In addition, the developer has threatened union leaders in separate meetings that it will lay off workers if the City does not pass their project.

This is misleading to our

residents. What the developer does not say in their letter is that the current zoning that the City Council granted to the developer many years ago prior to my service on the City Council already allows the developer the ability to build retail/ entertainment/ dining centers and resorts now.

Many years ago, long-time residents who supported changing agricultural land to Haseko's current allowed zoning did so only because Haseko promised them that they would bring resorts and businesses to the area to provide jobs for residents. Since those negotiations took place, Haseko has built thousands of homes but not these job centers. To say that people will lose jobs because they cannot build is simply false. I object to these tactics to gain support of the project.

In the many years that I have represented my commu-

nity, I have never experienced both long-time residents and new residents opposing a project. However, after talking with many of the opponents, I felt that with a lot of hard work and listening, we would find a compromise that we could all live with. So instead of recommending to the City Council to reject the proposal, I have been in numerous discussions with the community, including the Coast Guard and the National Guard who were against a section of the project.

Councilmember Trevor Ozawa's insistence on rushing this process and holding a special meeting on this developer's request hindered these community efforts. Under Bill 62 CD1, Haseko is proposing to rezone 62 acres in Ewa Beach and use the land to develop a recreational lagoon that will be surrounded by resort, residential, business and open spaces. However, with-

out further community input, the developer can leave residents on the hook for escalating maintenance and operation costs related to the lagoon.

I have done my best in my recent draft of amendments to address the concerns of long-time and new residents opposed to the project. I have proposed moving a proposed resort within the Navy's aviation easement back to its currently permitted footprint, thus resolving the National Guard's and the Coast Guard's concerns that federal law prohibits Haseko from building a resort in the proposed area.

In addition, I proposed increasing preservation lands instead of replacing it with more housing units while still enabling the developer to build the same number of units it promised to unions in the original resort and medium-density footprints where the developer is already allowed

to build today.

Most importantly, I added a provision requested by current Hoakalei homeowners that they would not have to pay more than \$50 a month in fees to support the resort project. Haseko is proposing that homeowners pay for 30 percent of the lagoon maintenance. Hoakalei homeowners are worried that they will be financially pushed out of their homes as Ko Olina residents were. Ko Olina residents are only required to pay 15 percent of resort maintenance while businesses and hotels pay for the rest. However, their monthly association fees average about \$1,000 a month.

Lastly, the developer grossed tens of millions of dollars in home sales by promoting the lagoon as a safe place for young families. However, when residents received rules for the use of the lagoon, they were prohibited from using the lagoon as it

(continued on page 5)

EDITORIALS (from page 2, TRUMP....)

bility. This cohesion, albeit fragile, affects positively all facets of American life from our economy to civil liberties. Prosperity, jobs and hope all are not possible without stability and peace. This unity is essential going forward; and to jeopardize this by electing Trump has potentially dangerous consequences.

The innumerable red flags that show Trump as the ultimate polarizing figure could easily unravel whatever racial and religious unity we currently enjoy, and quite frankly, take for granted. The election of someone who plans to encode dictatorial-style racism into law with absurd proposals such as banning Muslims into the country or rounding up 11 million undocumented immigrants like cattle could just be the catalyst to bring about unprecedented racial division. It's the type that plants deep anger into the psyche of Americans and potentially take generations to heal from. Is this the America we would want for ourselves and our children?

GOP Should be Held Accountable

The anger that Trump has

tapped into that helped to create this train of hate didn't suddenly and spontaneously spring into existence as soon as Trump stepped into the political sphere. It's fair to argue that Trump is merely exploiting what was already there within the GOP, then took it to a whole new level.

In the past, the GOP already struggled with the stigma of being unwelcoming towards Americans of color and they've done little to change that perception because they never had to (winning their fair share of presidential elections). But at the very least, GOP leaders were never foolish enough to attack minorities outright or blame minorities for the country's problems until Trump came along. But many, including the now defunct Tea Party wing of the GOP, have come very close to arousing similar bigotry in the recent past that paved the way for Trump.

As a matter of policy, the GOP has done all it can to block immigration reform; all the while claiming not to be against immigrants. The GOP also has fought any attempts at increasing the minimum wage which struggling minorities in

particular could benefit from. They've practiced a veiled form of institutional racism for years, appeasing their staunch, xenophobic base. Now, the old guard, Wall Street Republicans and their suburban White Republican cohorts piously cry foul at Trump's antics in feigned bewilderment as if what Trump is talking about had never been conversed among their far right factions, uneducated Whites.

Trump recently referred to 1965 as a reference point when immigration went awry. Interestingly, prior to 1965, immigration was quota-based favoring European entry into the U.S. and discouraged Asian and Latino immigration. It's curious then, how post-1965 immigration becomes problematic to Trump.

So when Trump warns that unless immigration is controlled, we have no country. That's really doubletalk to his fringe base that actually means—unless Whites begin to seriously limit immigration, Whites will find it harder to win elections and harder to preserve their preferred culture and way of life. This is transparent and just as transparent as Trump's sudden visit to the

Black community for votes (eight months later into his campaign) isn't about getting Blacks to vote for him, but more about getting White educated voters to his side to lift any guilt they might have in voting for a bigot.

Neither Trump nor the GOP deserve the support of minorities in the U.S unless their party's leadership finally

stamp out and reject their fringe, far right faction that have historically hurt minorities. Substantively, the GOP leadership must also begin to seriously adopt policies important to minorities to be included in their party's platform. They have yet to act on both these areas so minorities really owe them nothing but a vote against them.

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Medical Tourism: It's More Fun in the Philippines

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

The Philippines is known for many things—breathtaking scenery, hospitable people, delectable food, shopping and so much more. But there is more to this and much more to boast about.

In a world where sickness takes many lives every minute, cliché as it may seem, health is truly wealth. Maintaining one's health is costly because it entails discipline and personal sacrifice, but getting ill costs more because not only does it endanger one's life, it can be financially draining.

Fortunately, the Philippines is fast becoming a popular destination for medical tourism, which involves traveling to another country for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment. Doing so is a way for medically underserved patients to receive treatment at a fraction of the cost in their home country. International medical travel often includes vacation amenities such as hotel or re-

sort accommodation, chauffeured travel and a bilingual personal assistant to help patients feel at ease or to make non-medically related arrangements.

Traditionally, people would travel from less-developed countries to major medical centers in highly-developed countries for medical treatment that was unavailable in their own communities. However, the recent trend is for people to travel from developed countries to Third World countries for medical treatments because of cost considerations.

Despite being a Third World country, the Philippines takes pride in its world-class medical healthcare services that are among the best in Asia. In fact, the coun-



State-of-the-art medical and hospital facilities at the Medical City.

try is ranked eighth among the top medical tourism destinations in the world, even ahead of progressive countries such as Japan and France, according to the 2015 list of the International Healthcare Research Center and the Medical Tourism Association (MTA). MTA is a global non-profit association for medical tourism and international patient industry. It represents healthcare providers, governments, insurance companies, employers and other buyers of healthcare. Canada emerged as the top medical tourism destination of the world, providing the most suitable environment and acceptable healthcare cost.

The clients of the Philippines when it comes to medical tourism come from diverse nations. Many come from East Asian nations like China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. There are also medical tourists from Sri Lanka and the Pacific islands of Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Patients from Australia, North and South America, United Kingdom, Europe and the Persian Gulf States travel all the way to the Philippines to avail of medical services. Filipino expats and overseas workers also

prefer to have their medical procedures done in the country.

The Philippines' rise as a major player in the booming medical tourism industry began in 2006 when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order 372 which aimed at developing the Philippines' communication, logistics and health and wellness industries. Since then, the Philippines steadily moved up the regional market with continuous renovation and upgrading of its hospitals to meet international standards.

In 2010, the National Economic and Development Authority projected that the Philippine medical tourism industry would become a \$3-billion industry by 2015, with an average of around 200,000 foreign patients expected to come to the Philippines every year—double that of 2008's figures of 100,000. And the arrivals keep coming.

Why the Philippines for Medical Procedures?

The following are the country's competitive advantages:

1. Excellent quality healthcare services. Top hospitals in the Philippines now have state-of-the-art

medical and hospital facilities, and the number of hospitals and clinics that are accredited by international organizations is growing. Five Philippine medical institutions, namely Asian Hospital and Medical Center (Muntinlupa City), St. Luke's Medical Center (Global City and Quezon City), Makati Medical Center (Makati City) and The Medical City (Pasig City) have been certified as institutions for excellent medical care by the Joint Commission International (JCI), the only patient safety and quality healthcare accreditation and certification body with membership in more than 100 countries worldwide. JCI accreditation is both intensive and extensive in its standards, and assessment is comprehensive, thus ensuring that a hospital with the JCI seal can provide the care that medical tourists require.

2. Competent healthcare professionals. Filipinos are known worldwide as excellent caregivers and health care professionals who have undergone rigorous education and training in the Philippines and abroad. They are highly-trained and internationally recognized. The country of-

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, MEDICAL...)

fers competitive pricing of medical services.

3. Cost advantage. The costs of performing medical procedures in the country are a lot cheaper compared to most developed countries like the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom and Australia. For example, a bypass surgery with heart valve replacement can cost \$75,000 to \$140,000 in the U.S. while it can only be availed for approximately \$14,000 to \$20,000 in the Philippines—five times lesser. The country offers competitive pricing of medical services.

4. Filipinos have the ability to communicate well in English, coupled with a culture of compassion and service. This enables Filipino medical professionals to communicate and deal well with people from all backgrounds.

5. Geographical proximity to countries such as Guam, Micronesia, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan where possible medical tourists abound makes the Philippines an emerging player in medical tourism.

Some of the more popular procedures that medical tourists in the Philippines seek include orthopedics treatment (hip and total knee replacement surgery), LASIK, cardiac care (heart bypass surgery), cancer therapy (radiotherapy) and dental treatments—all at a fraction of the price they would pay back home.

Jem Eliscupidez, a Filipino who used to teach in an international school in South Korea and now works in Myanmar, prefers to have herself checked in the Philip-



ippines due to better communication.

“I prefer medical attention back home because of the language barrier and the difference in health system,” she says. “I did have hospital experiences in Korea and even in international hospitals but it is still difficult to deal with the doctors because they couldn’t answer my questions and they cannot explain things well. Even if I had insurance in South Korea that covers all my medical expenses, I still prefer the Philippines, also because most of my medical concerns were diagnosed there. If my sickness needs immediate attention, I’ll have myself checked wherever I am but medical concerns that can wait like dental, thyroid, blood chemistry, breasts ultrasound and derma queries, I have all of them checked back home.”

Another Filipino, Camille Fernandez, who is now staying in the UK, shares a similar sentiment. She says it’s not about cost but expertise.

“Philippine doctors are the best,” she says. “In London, you see general practitioners who don’t specialize in any field. You don’t get better here when you see a general practitioner.”

Fernandez says the med-

ical system in the UK is quite different, with female patients seeing an obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN) only when referred by a general practitioner.

“This only happens when you are really sick and you wait for months to get an appointment. Private doctors are no different. You pay so much and still you get no answer for your condition unlike in the Philippines.”

Mayette Kim, a Filipina married to a South Korean, chose to have her daughter seen by a psychiatrist in the Philippines.

“My daughter and I feel more comfortable to see a psychiatrist we know. Communication alone, we needed someone who can understand us and vice versa,” she says. “Also, most of our dental procedures are done in our province every time we go home. The cost is cheaper but the quality is good. Our Filipino dentist even takes time to explain and give us some tips.”

The Philippines is truly a viable place for medical tourism. Not only are there excellent medical services, the Philippines is also a wonderful place to relax and recover with its 7,107 islands. Boracay, Palawan, Bohol, Cebu are just some of the

many islands that international patients can choose to stay while recuperating. It is definitely an all-in-one package. And the Philippines’ warm and friendly people certainly help the recuperation process.

Medical and surgical expertise, excellent amenities, world-class island destinations, proficiency in English and the Filipino hospitality—

all of these factors contribute to the Philippines’ ascent to global competitiveness in the fast growing medical tourism industry. Combined quality and affordable surgery in a tropical paradise for leisure and recuperation makes medical tourism more fun in the Philippines!

Associate editor Dennis Galolo contributed to this report.

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VILMA D. FUENTES, Doctor of Physical Therapy

OP-ED (from page 3, DEVELOPER'S....)

was advertised and children were prohibited.

I asked Haseko why they would do this to residents. At the last City Council meeting, Haseko revealed that the lagoon is actually a dangerous use because it was built to be a marina. To protect future homeowners from liability, my proposal would make sure

Haseko makes the lagoon safe prior to turnover to Hoakalei residents.

While my proposals address as many concerns as possible, I still cannot recommend it for final passage to the full Council as so much damage has been caused by calling for this special meeting without finalizing discussions in

our community. I am against giving any developer special treatment and you should be too.

KYMBERLY MARCOS PINE represents Council District 1, which includes portions of Ewa Villages and Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Makakilo, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, Ko Olina, Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, Makaha, Keaau and Makua.

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Knights of Rizal to Hold 6th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award Gala

by Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.

The 6th Annual Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award Gala will be held on September 24, 2016 at the Filipino Community Center. Instituted in 2011, the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice is given annually by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter to celebrate Rizal's life and to honor his memory and his achievements.

The award is bestowed to individuals who exemplify the ideals and teachings of the Philippines' foremost national hero. Rizal was a polymath who excelled in many fields. He is known for his literary works, keen scientific mind, devotion to an educated citizenry, vision of an ideal community, and most of all, his dedication to and struggle for peace, freedom and social justice.

The award is open to all nationalities residing in Hawaii, male or female. The

candidate must be nominated by at least three reputable civic, professional or community organizations. A nomination form must be submitted detailing the awardee's accomplishments, impacts of said achievements on the community, and how such achievements promote Rizal's ideals and teachings. The nominee must also show exceptional leadership, achievement, service and advocacy in the promotion of change through peaceful means, intercultural understanding, social justice and democratic principles.

This year's awardee is Charlie Y. Sonido, MD, a Filipino physician, educator, businessman, journalist, humanitarian, community leader and advocate. Previous honorees include Dr. Belinda Aquino (2011), Jorge Camara, MD (2012), Dr. Amefil Agbayani (2013), Ramon Sy, MD (2014) and Anacleto Alcantra (2015).

Like Rizal, Sonido at-



Dr. Charlie Sonido

tended the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where he graduated *cum laude* with a Doctor of Medicine degree. He currently runs a private Primary Care/ Internal Medical practice in Waipahu and Lihue, where many of his patients are immigrants, Filipino veterans, the elderly, uninsured and other underserved members of the community. A handful of the 100 patients who are treated at the clinic each day simply cannot afford to pay, so they are seen at no charge.

In 1997, Sonido established the Bayanihan Clinic

without Walls (BCWW), a non-profit organization that provides free healthcare to newly-arrived immigrants of all ethnicities. That same year, the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), under Sonido's leadership, began sponsoring a community health fair in conjunction with the popular Filipino Fiesta & Parade.

Sonido's impact as a physician extends well beyond Hawaii's borders. He volunteers several times each year for medical missions to the Philippines and other Third World countries. For Sonido, each mission is truly compassion in action and represents medicine in its purest sense—providing lifesaving treatment free of charge to the less fortunate without expecting compensation or a reward.

Sonido also shares his expertise and knowledge as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, a position he has held since 1983. To help meet the acute shortage of doctors

in Hawaii, particularly for Filipino doctors, Sonido mentors young physicians. He founded the Hawaii Physicians Preceptorship Program which helps international medical graduates, particularly from the Philippines, to land residency positions in U.S. hospitals. So far, a total of 140 physicians and medical students have participated or are currently being mentored by volunteer physicians.

In short, Sonido is well-respected among his peers in the local medical community. He repeatedly donates his time and personal resources to help the less fortunate through numerous acts of service during his 33 years as a physician. He not only is the embodiment of *noblesse oblige*—for whom much is given, much more is expected—but also lives up to the ideals espoused by Dr. Jose Rizal.

The event starts at 6 pm. Tickets are \$60 per person. For further details, please call Dr. Arnold Villafuerte at (808) 220-2988 or email Raymund Liongson at: rliongson@gmail.com.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Two Oahu Filipinos to Attend Youth Leadership Conference in Manila

Two young Filipinos from Oahu have been selected to represent Hawaii at the 5th Filipino American Youth Leadership Program which will be held in the Philippines from November 24 to December 2, 2016.

The first participant is Brandon dela Cruz, director of

marketing for L&L Franchise Inc., and president elect of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii for 2017. The second is Elizabeth Obod Frilles, an educator from Olomana School and the recipient of the 2015 Windward District Teacher of the Year. Dela Cruz and Frilles will join eight other

delegates from Chicago, Daly City, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Washington DC and Guam.

Dela Cruz and Frilles were selected based on their scholastic achievements and other accolades, leadership skills, accomplishments, active participation in school, civic, po-

litical, business and other organizations. They were also noted for their vision, innovativeness and commitment to making a difference in the Philippines, within the Filipino-American community and the Filipino American Youth Leadership Program as an organization which is composed of and run by its 40 alumni, all of whom are high performing, next generation leaders.

The program was launched in 2012 as a youth-oriented project of Jose L. Cuisia Jr., former Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. The goal of the program is to empower outstanding young Filipino-Americans who possess a sincere desire to be engaged in their respective communities and to be a part of the



Brandon dela Cruz and Elizabeth Obod Frilles

Philippines' growth story.

The annual immersion program will provide delegates with opportunities to meet and dialogue with the country's top officials and policymakers, leaders of industry, legislators, media, artists, cultural experts, business entrepreneurs and leaders in various fields of endeavor.

Previous program participants from Hawaii include Kit Zulueta of Maui (2012), Randy Cortez of Oahu (2013), Michael Dahilig of Kauai (2014) and State Rep. Ty Cullen of Oahu (2015).

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

How to Petition for An Alien Spouse Without Really Trying

you do not need a lawyer. Get out of here.”

The first step in filing a petition for an alien spouse is to get the instructions for Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. Read them very carefully. If you do not understand them, get someone who can. If you really love your spouse, hire a lawyer. Damn the cost. This is not the occasion to economize. Anyway, \$1,000-\$1,500 is a reasonable fee. Beyond that is exorbitant.

CHEAPSKATE HUSBAND

A cheapskate husband in the U.S. filed a petition for his wife by himself. USCIS requested the petitioner to submit Form G-325A for his wife. The husband did not comply. In the meantime, a playboy courted and won the wife probably telling her that her husband did not care about her since he had not petitioned her even though several years had elapsed. The cuckolded husband asked a lawyer what he should do. “If I were you,” said the wise lawyer, “forget about her. If you petition for your wife and you are reunited, when you make love with her you will always be thinking of the other guy making love with your wife. You will be jealous, suffer E.D., and become an NPA (non-performing asawa).” “But I still love her,” insisted the guy, “look how beautiful she is (showing the lawyer a picture of the adulterous wife), I am willing to forgive her.”

FORMS, FEES, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

“Ala ngarud,” said the Ilocano lawyer, let us file a new I-130 petition that is complete with supporting documents. We will write a cover letter listing all the forms and documents you are filing. Many of the items listed here are not specified by the instructions, but we have found through experience that they are useful in convincing the USCIS that your marriage is bona fide (in good faith). Remember, the USCIS is always suspicious of visa petitions for a spouse because of the high incidence of marriage fraud. If you do not submit sufficient evidence to convince the USCIS officer who will process your papers that your marriage is bona fide, the officer will send you a blue form REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE asking you to submit more evidence. I have never received a REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE in connection with I-130 petitions I have filed for alien spouses but I have seen several that were sent to other petitioners who prepared the petition themselves or had incompetent “consultants” misguide them.

Here is a sample list of documents to submit to USCIS:

Fees and Forms

(1) Form I-130 completed and signed by petitioner; (2) Check or money order for the filing fee payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (\$ 420.00 as of this writing but check USCIS website for

current fee); (3) Form G325A completed and signed by petitioner, with one passport size colored photograph; (4) Form G325A completed and signed by spouse, with 2 passport size colored photographs.

Documents Relating to Petitioner

(1) Citizenship documents or Permanent Resident card or other evidence of permanent resident status of petitioner; (2) passport of petitioner showing trips abroad to visit the spouse; (3) if previously married, document evidencing termination of all prior marriages, such as divorce decree, annulment decree, or certificate of death.

Documents Relating to Alien Spouse

(1) Certificate of Live Birth of the spouse, showing the place and date of birth. In the Philippines, it must be a certificate issued by the National Statistics Office; (2) if previously married, document evidencing termination of all prior marriages, such as divorce decree, annulment decree, or certificate of death.

Documents Relating to both Petitioner and Alien Spouse

(1) certificate of marriage

of petitioner and spouse; (2) pictures of petitioner and spouse together before, during, and after wedding ceremony, including pictures with friends or relatives; (3) “Historia de un amor” or declaration of how petitioner met spouse, their courtship and marriage, what they like about each other, who proposed marriage, physical presence at wedding, fact that there was a honeymoon, and that marriage was consummated; (4) joint documents to establish a bona fide marriage, (5) affidavits of friends and relatives with personal knowledge of the bona fides of the marital relationship; and (6) other relevant documents to establish that there is an ongoing marital union.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.,” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

“Do I need a lawyer to petition for a relative?” a buxomly woman asked of a lawyer. “Why do you ask that question?” the lawyer inquired. “My grandfather petitioned for my father and mother. It was approved. He did not have a lawyer. I petitioned for my husband without a lawyer but it was disapproved.” “Maybe you are not as smart as your grandfather,” replied the lawyer. “I do not like your answer,” the woman complained.

“Ok. Your grandfather was petitioning for a son. You were petitioning for a spouse. The requirements are different. Here are the instructions for petitioning a relative. You will find all the requirements there.” “After I read the instructions, do I still need a lawyer?” the woman persisted.

“Look, you are asking a lawyer whether you need a lawyer. What do you expect the lawyer to say? That you do not need a lawyer? Then you will go around broadcasting that Abogado De Campanilla told you that you do not need a lawyer to file a petition for your relative. Then everybody will do it without a lawyer. When their petition is disapproved they will blame Abogado De Campanilla because he said that

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Emergency Preparedness Fair Held for Leeward Coast Residents

State Rep. Andria Tupola organized an emergency preparedness fair on September 17, 2016 at Nanakuli High School for residents of the Leeward Coast.

Themed “Wake Up West-side,” the event offered workshops on preparing for an

environmental crisis. Experts provided information on CPR, sanitation, food sustainability, aquaponics and how to vacuum seal rice. There were also first aid and shelter demonstrations and workshops on storage batteries, solar panels and hurricane insurance.

“My constituents need to prepare now for any emergency they might face,” says Rep. Tupola. “I wanted to provide the community the opportunity to learn how to protect their families and homes. We need to wake up to the possibilities of a natural disaster. To be safe, we must prepare first.”



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Buenconsejo Joins Hawaii Energy

by HFC Staff

Former U.S. Senate staff member and veteran television news reporter Marvin Buenconsejo

recently joined Hawaii Energy as a member of its communications team.

“It’s exciting to join the Hawai‘i Energy team as it continues to lead the charge toward a sustainable energy future for our state,” said Buenconsejo. “I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to Senator Hirono for her years of nurturing and encouragement during my tenure with her office. It is her longstanding support of Hawai‘i’s sustainability and clean energy efforts that has inspired me to take on this new challenge.”

He has been tasked with creating and implementing communications strategies to broaden Hawaii Energy’s impact and assist local homeowners and businesses in becoming more energy-efficient. Hawaii Energy is a ratepayer-funded energy conservation and efficiency program administered by Leidos Engineering, LLC under contract with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission serving Hawaii, Honolulu and Maui counties.

Buenconsejo previously served as U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono’s deputy director of communications. Prior to joining her staff in 2008, he was a familiar face in Hawaii’s television news scene for 17 years with the final three as a morning show anchor.

A graduate of Punahou School, Buenconsejo received his degree in communications from the University of Washington in 1989. He got his first big break in August 1990 when the NBC affiliate, KHON-TV, in Honolulu hired him as a news reporter. A few years later, he switched to KHNL-TV which at the time was the first all-digital newsroom in the world.

Buenconsejo graciously took the time to answer several

questions from the Chronicle. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Congratulations on your new position! What prompted you to leave Capitol Hill to work for Hawaii Energy?

A: Virtually all of us who live here in Hawaii have a clear understanding of the importance of creating a clean energy future for our state. Joining the Hawaii Energy team provides a rare opportunity to have a more direct impact on meeting Hawaii’s energy efficiency goals. As many of us know, Senator Hirono is a longtime supporter of developing clean energy sources for Hawaii. I am grateful to the Senator for her support as I start this new, exciting chapter in my professional career.

Q: What were some of your crowning achievements as deputy communications director for U.S. Sen. Hirono?

A: Top of that list is without a doubt helping Senator Hirono reach out to Filipino World War II veterans following the Obama administration’s opening filing date for the Filipino WWII Veterans Parole Program. These loyal veterans have been waiting for decades to be reunited with family in the Philippines.

We utilized our office’s strong relationships with the federal immigration agency, local immigration attorneys and advocates for Filipino WWII veterans to help them and their families (and in many cases veterans’ survivors) navigate their way through our nation’s complex immigration system. I once again thank everyone who assisted in this endeavor to guide our Filipino veterans and their families.

Q: As communications specialist for Hawaii Energy, what will your responsibilities be?

A: The Hawaii Energy program has a strong track record of helping island families and businesses meet the challenges that come with being more en-

ergy efficient. With Gov. David Ige raising the bar by calling for 100 percent clean energy use in Hawaii by 2045, it’ll be even more essential for Hawaii Energy to reach out to everyone, such as your loyal readers, and get people to clearly understand what opportunities are available for them to save energy, protect our environment, and save money along the way.

Q: Why is it crucial for Hawaii to be energy efficient?

A: There are numerous reasons why it’s crucial for Hawaii to be more energy efficient and they’re all equally important. From an economic standpoint, we need to stop buying foreign fuel and keep that money – measured in the billions of dollars – here in our state. From a security standpoint, we can’t keep depending on outside sources to meet our state’s energy needs. Improving energy efficiency is also a vital way to protect Hawaii’s environment for island families to live and flourish for generations to come.

Q: How do you plan to get this message out to the public, particularly the Filipino community?

A: I believe everyone understands, at some level, that we must all do our part to be more energy efficient. The Filipino community is a strong and proud contributor to our island culture. Hawaii Energy is currently in the process of reaching out to all of our community leaders, ranging from the various chambers of commerce to our state’s social clubs, spiritual leadership to our numerous sports leagues, to ensure they have the necessary information and access to the support needed to keep us on the clean energy path. Whether at the grass roots level by visiting neighborhoods or taking a wider approach such as utilizing social media, we look to involve everyone in this critical effort.

Q: What incentives are you offering to ratepayers?

A: There are numerous re-

bates and programs available to Hawaii residents and business owners. As a pair of quick examples, residents can save on the purchase of LED light bulbs by receiving instant rebates at many local stores. Hawaii Energy also offers island businesses incentive funding on the purchase of energy efficient equipment such as lighting retrofits and air conditioning. For locations and details on these programs, I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.hawaiienergy.com.

Q: Any plans to re-enter the TV news industry?

A: My 20-year career in television continues to be blessing to this very day; I learned so much, enjoyed so many amazing experiences and challenges, shared thousands of stories—from the heartbreaking to the fun and the frivolous. But now, it’s time to focus on this new phase of my professional career, one that I hope I can make a meaningful and lasting difference.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipino Nurses Attend Annual Convention in DC



Filipino nurses and their guests totaling over 400 strong converged in Washington, DC in July for the Philippine Nurses Association of America’s (PNAA) 37th Annual National Convention. PNAA-Hawaii was represented by a delegation of 16 members headed by President Ramon Sumibcay and President-Elect Erlinda Ferrer.

The Grand Hyatt, which was the temporary home for most during the event, ensured

a cool restful place after hours of sightseeing in the hot summer Eastern day. July 20-24 was filled with back-to-back meetings, leadership conferences and educational opportunities. Attendees created and renewed acquaintances and friendships as the various state chapters networked amongst themselves. During the general assembly, PNAA President Leticia Hermosa handed President-Elect Dino Doliente the presidential gavel symbolizing

the formal transfer of power to the next administration.

It was in the same occasion that the newly elected members of the PNAA executive board were announced. The process of selecting the next state host for 2018 was fun. New Jersey won the bid by a few votes over San Diego.

Interspersed between the hectic schedule were occasions for light moments, afforded by activities such as the Welcome Night, the Networking Night and the Potomac River Boat Ride. On top of it all, on the days when the schedule allowed, the PNA-Hawaii delegation managed to go for crabs dinner (two bushels of crabs and shrimps on the side), compliments of treasurer Virginia Baptista. Although the tour to the White House did not materialize, they enjoyed touring the Capitol. (continued on page 10)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

On Duterte, Hitler and Resolving a Hero's Burial For Marcos

Manila on August 21.

I had arrived in the country in time to make it to the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City to see Aquino's widow Cory give the eulogy and then to see the massive funeral procession—1 million strong—throughout the streets of Manila.

In part, it was an adoration of Benigno Aquino, the chosen anti-Marcos, the man Filipinos had hoped would lead them to freedom. But it was also the first healthy public condemnation of Marcos, the man who had sucked the life, liberty and riches from the country under his repressive martial law regime.

It was the beginning of the end. Within three years, in 1986, the country's resentment of martial law would reach amok levels and with the help of the military, Marcos ultimately would be forced to flee the country.

And it was the funeral procession on August 31, 1983, that let everyone know it was all coming soon. So imagine the irony of August 31, 2016. That's when the Philippine Supreme Court officially began hearing oral arguments for and against a plan to give Marcos a hero's burial in the Philippines' national cemetery, the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The proposal made by the newly-elected Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, the authoritarian tough guy who has been likened to Donald Trump, has split the country and Filipino diaspora community around the world (which incidentally exists mostly because of Marcos).

You either see Marcos as a former president who deserves to be taken out of cold storage and buried on hallowed Philippine soil. Or you simply can't forget the long list of human rights abuses of political opponents, Benigno Aquino chief among them. The disappearances and executions of thousands of political foes. The estimated \$10 billion stolen from the country for his fam-

ily's personal gain.

U.S. federal court judgments in 1994 and 1995 awarded martial law victims nearly \$2 billion, of which payments were first made in 2011.

A wall-like monument like the Vietnam Memorial erected near the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus is a constant reminder of the names of those victimized by Marcos' 20 years of martial law.

And yet 33 years after the Aquino funeral procession, when the country first expressed mass outrage over Marcos, a new generation of leadership is considering honoring the Filipino tormentor.

I talked to one Filipino immigrant, who had come to the U.S. during martial law and was now an American citizen. He was all too willing to forgive and forget.

Hitler?

"Well, even the Germans have forgiven Hitler," he said. I quickly corrected him. "No, they haven't." Many still see Hitler rightly as evil incarnate.

But I don't want to elevate Marcos to Hitler status. The Philippine dictator's actions weren't fueled by the belief of the racial superiority of Filipinos among, say all of Asia, or above all ethnicities.

Marcos wasn't anti-Semitic. He was just anti-Filipino.

Marcos simply saw himself as superior to other Filipinos. He subjected his will over lesser Filipinos, which actually made him a whole lot worse than anyone can imagine. He perpetrated crimes against his own people. His own country. There's nothing heroic about that.

And yet, oligarchs will do as oligarchs will do. Forgive each other and hope that a new generation of ignorant millennials will help them form a new majority of revisionists. They have all been subjected to very little education on the human rights abuses of Marcos. They only see the dictator as the man who ushered in the "Golden

Age" of the Philippines.

Public education! National highways! Flush toilets! Ah, modernity and selective amnesia. Last week, Filipinos around the world, who have memories that won't quit, as well as a strong sense of history, moral and chronological, demonstrated at Philippine embassies and consulates around the world to express their anger at the thought of a hero's burial for Marcos.

It wasn't as loud as what I saw August 31, 1983, when a million people thronged the streets to follow the casket of Aquino. And where I was in San Francisco, it was about 100 people, when in the 1980s such a demonstration would have brought out easily 500-1,000 people. That was a big crowd. But there are people who can't forget what Marcos is responsible for.

My Solution?

Nearly 30 years has passed since Marcos' death. Last week I was inspired after calling the Philippines. It wasn't a family member. I had a dispute on a credit card bill and got a call center.

The phone tree got me to the Philippines and an operator who thought I was Mexican.

"Mexican?" I asked. "Pronouncing my name 'Gil-yermo.'" The call center apologized profusely. And then we chatted. He told me he didn't think Marcos should be buried a hero. And then it dawned on me.

The hue and cry over Marcos' dastardly deeds against country, along with the doubts

over his war heroism, all indicate one thing—Forgiving Filipinos simply need Marcos to endure more and greater penance, both in body and soul before he's even considered for a hero's burial.

The soul is somewhere and that might be hard to wrangle. But the body is in Ilocos, refrigerated and awaiting assignment for service to its country. It should be put to use immediately—dispatched to the South China Sea and placed in a strategic spot to ward off evil spirits, namely China, which seems to be building up islands like they were Metro Manila suburbs.

Put Marcos' body to some good use for his country. Tell the China about aswangs, then stick Marcos up as a national scarecrow. Put the "war hero" to work in the latest drama.

Now that should appease all sides in the debate and scare the heck out of the Chinese. If the scarecrow thing is a bit macabre, then okay. Make the disputed Scarborough Shoal sacred Filipino land and just bury the dictator there as a spiritual menace to China. Et voila! The burial of Marcos as the Philippines' secret weapon.

It would take a scenario as ridiculous and improbable as that to undo all the bad memories of martial law under Marcos.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California.

I think I have a pretty simple solution to this Marcos burial madness. But first, being a full-blooded Filipino, albeit born in America, allow me my sentimentality for the assertion of democracy and freedom that I saw in the Philippines.

It was during my first trip ever to the Philippines. I was in the homeland of my parents on one of the most important days in its history—August 31, 1983. It was the first hint that an EDSA was a few short years away.

As a young Filipino-American reporter for the NBC affiliate in San Francisco, I had convinced my bosses that the death of Sen. Benigno Aquino, the main rival of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was not some remote international headline. No, this was a big story for the more than 300,000 Filipino-Americans living in the Bay Area.

With many Filipino immigrants originally from the Ilocos region and the rest of them either in the U.S. because of Marcos martial law as immigrants or exiles, the Philippines story was as local as a five-alarm fire.

There was also the special relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines, the former colony made up to be a replica democracy in brownface. Never mind the dictatorship part.

The Reagan and Bush administrations had given its blessing to the Marcos regime. Remember Vice President Bush's infamous praise for Marcos and his "adherence to democratic principles?"

You mean, like human rights violations and torture? Yes and ultimately, the assassination of one Sen. Aquino, who was killed upon his return from exile in the U.S. to

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

OFWs Exempted from Paying Travel Tax, POEA Fees

by **Mayen Jaymalin**
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) returning to their jobs or same employers abroad are now exempted from paying travel tax as well as securing overseas employment certificate (OEC) and paying Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) processing fee.

In a newly approved memorandum circular, the POEA said the new policy was in line with the government's efforts to streamline the processing of OFWs' documents.

In a related development, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Filipino household service workers (HSWs) and other OFWs abroad could expect better protection as the International Labor Organization adopted the Fair Recruitment Principles and Opera-

tional Guidelines during a Tripartite Meeting of Experts in Geneva, Switzerland last week.

According to the POEA, Balik Manggagawa (BM) or returning workers' group has long been calling on the government to enhance the processing of their OECs or exit clearance.

OFWs returning abroad are required to secure OECs prior to their departure.

POEA said workers who would be going back to the same employer could register online to update their personal and employment data with the POEA.

Data submitted to the POEA would be forwarded to the Bureau of Immigration to serve as reference of the BI officer in validating the exemption of BM members at the time of their departure.

POEA said the BM members would have to present valid work visa or employment contract so they could be exempted from paying terminal fee and travel tax. (www.philstar.com)

Pimentel Rejects Senate Protection for Matobato

by **Patricia Lourdes Viray**
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III on Thursday denied the request to place confessed hit man Edgar Matobato under witness protection.

Pimentel said he intends to run the Senate based on rules and that there was no Senate rule to justify placing Matobato under protection.

"There's even no showing that his life or safety is threatened. Worse, the witness' testimony is not even relevant to the resolution being investigated," Pimentel said in a statement.

During the Senate committee on justice hearing on Thursday, Matobato claimed that President Rodrigo Duterte

was behind the killings of suspected criminals in Davao City. The alleged hired gun also confessed to killing dozens as part of the Davao Death Squad.

Matobato also claimed that Duterte gave an order to ambush Sen. Leila de Lima, who was investigating extrajudicial killings in 2009 during her term as Commission on Human Rights chairperson.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, meanwhile, said that the committee will question the rejection of Senate protection for Matobato.

"We have to make arrangements for the temporary security of the witness," Trillanes said in a telephone interview with ANC's "Headstart." (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 8, FILIPINO...)

The convention, which was hosted by PNA-Metro DC, culminated with the much anticipated Gala Night on July 23rd, emceed by Hawaii's very own Amelia Casamina-Cabatu. Over 500 attendees feasted on a sumptuous dinner and were entertained by The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists Inc., & KGB Productions. They were also treated to operatic renditions and Filipino songs by Caucasian singers from Capitol Opera Richmond.

The highlight of the evening was the installation of the 2016-2018 PNAA Ex-

ecutive Board. The new officers were inducted by Clarita Miraflor, one of the founders and the very first president of PNAA. Among those sworn into office was Ramon Sumibcay who was voted by his peers as the Circle of Presidents Regional Representative (Western Region). In addition, PNA-Hawaii member Nancy Walch was appointed the chairperson of PNAA Ways and Means Committee.

Attendees are already looking forward to next year's gathering. The 38th National Convention will be on a cruise hosted by Florida.

FOOD & LEISURE

Pinoy Cuisine Gets NOBU-FIED

TURO-TURO by Claude Tayag

On town last week was Nobu New York executive chef Ricky Estrellado, a Filipino who teamed up with Fil-Am Nobu Manila head chef Michael De Jesus for a two-night omakase (a meal where one leaves it up to the chef) gastronomic dinner. They interpreted classic Filipino dishes in the manner of their mentor, world-renowned Japanese chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

Chef Ricky has been with Nobu for 22 years and is the executive chef in New York, overseeing both Nobu New York in Tribeca and Nobu Next Door along Hudson Street. Chef Michael, a Fil-Am who grew up in the US, started his nine-year career with Nobu's Los Angeles restaurant then worked in Nobu Las Vegas immediately before coming to Nobu Manila early this year.

It was an indulgent eight-course menu, to say the least, showcasing Nobu's sleight-of-hand interpretations of Filipino classic dishes.

Not counted as a course but nevertheless whetting our appetites was a zensai (bite-size beer/sake chow,) a crispy gyoza cone filled with sisig foie gras wrapped with a shiso leaf. The mere mention of sisig and foie gras together in one dish elicited a lot of excitement within my round table of eight, but alas, the bite-size cone was a tad too tiny for it to make a statement. Perhaps that was the intention, though, to tease our appetites and pine for more. We're in Nobu, after all, where refinement and subtlety are the name of the game.

Following immediately was the first course of Seared Tuna Kinilaw with Ceviche Gelee — red onions, kyuri (wasabi sprouts), tomatoes and chili chopped up served tartar style; and then another kinilaw

of Lapu-Lapu and Green Papaya Salad wrapped in Shiso Crepe (like a fresh lumpia roll), with jalapeño and Matsuhisa dressing.

One of Nobu's signature dishes, Yellowtail New Style, was reintroduced with a green mango salsa, while the fourth course of Spiny Lobster Tempura sitting on a daikon medallion was served tableside with piping hot Miso Sinigang Con-sommé.

The meat entrees were a crisp-skin and tender-soft-meat Sous Vide Crispy Pata with Amazu Ponzu and Rencon Laing (Brussels sprouts cooked the Bicolano way with coconut milk-based taro leaves), and Beef Short Ribs Kare-Kare Anticucho, a Peruvian barbecue marinade mixed with peanut butter. The must-have condiment of bagoong alamang or shrimp paste for the kare-kare came ingeniously in the guise of a small cracker of crisp dried tatami iwashi, dried baby sardines similar to our dulong (goby fish) brushed with the shrimp paste. Though both were equally good, rice was missed in both, which I personally feel was necessary to cut down the richness of the two dishes in succession.

But rice finally came in the seventh course with an array of five kinds of sushi. It's a play of local ingredients and seasonings prepared to look like your normal Japanese sushi, but that's where the similarity ends. The light Nobu hand with seasonings remained evident throughout — a play of Pinoy panlana (palate) of subtle sour, sweet and salty. Served on a rectangular plate were Saba Tinapa Style (smoked local hasa-hasa or short mackerel), Tuna Toyomansi (soy sauce and calamansi extract), Whitefish Sharsado Style, Salay Salay Paksiw (yellow-striped scad simmered in vinegar), and Mixed Seafood Kilawin Taco

(crisp sinangag or garlic fried rice.)

And to cap off our meal was the Nobu-Style Water halo-halo — finely shaved frozen coconut water with red adzuki beans, fresh sesame mocha and yuzu jelly. Condensed milk was poured over it. It was a light and refreshingly sweet ending to the diner's delightful experience.

Meet The Estrellado Family

Though chef Ricky has been living in New York for more than 20 years now, he still considers Manila home. Since 2010, after his father, the late Major General Rodolfo "Rudy" Estrellado (former PMA superintendent) died, he and his family — wife Pam and daughter Pia — have been coming home every August to be with mama Erlinda (nee Del Mar Talaid) for her birthday on Aug. 8, as well as his on Aug. 21, hence the timing of the above Nobu-fied Pinoy festival. His elder brother Randy's birthday (COO of Maynilad) falls on Aug. 27, while only sister Roxanne (who has a master's in special education) was born July 28. Their bunso, Rodolfo, Junior "JR" (a rehab doctor) celebrates on April 19. The accomplished, close-knit siblings celebrate "Mama's Day" the whole month of August by being with her.

I've known Roxanne for the past 10 years or so, since she moved to our hometown Angeles City when she married a kabalen, Francis Limjoco, a brother-in-law of my niece, Monica Tinio. This is what Roxanne shared about kuya Ricky's culinary path:

"We grew up in Metro Manila. Our meals were just simple home-cooked dishes. But when our parents left for Tokyo in 1986, with Papa's assignment as military attaché there, our Mama brought with them my yaya, who cooked our



Nobu chefs Michael de Jesus and Ricky Estrellado.

daily meals. My two older brothers Randy and Ricky were left to take care of us two younger siblings with a helper who only cooked two kinds of dishes. To compensate, kuya Ricky began experimenting in the kitchen. He was in college then, taking up computer science in DLSU. I don't think being a chef was his dream, at least initially. He started cooking for himself, then for his friends. Then he began looking for jobs in the kitchen — any kitchen. He even worked at Goodah! for P50 a day!

"I think he was working in a food company catering to some airlines when he decided this was what he really wanted to do, dropping the computer science degree altogether. He asked my parents if he could go to a culinary school in the US, since there were no culinary schools yet locally then. Papa was against it at first; not only it was expensive, but he didn't want his son to become a 'kusinero.' Eventually, our Mama was able to convince Papa. Since we had an aunt living in New York, Ricky stayed with her and enrolled at the New York Restaurant School. He eventually graduated at the top of his class in 1994. We couldn't be any prouder, especially our Papa."

After graduation, he worked briefly at the acclaimed Montrachet restaurant in Tribeca owned by restaurateur Drew Nieporent. He was asked to join Nieporent's new Nobu New York kitchen, where he was drawn to Nobu's new-style Japanese cuisine that has won virtually every major culinary accolade. He soon rose up the ranks from prep cook to chef de cuisine. He likewise trained the culinary staff at Nobu Next Door in 1998 and Nobu Las Vegas in 1999. Since 2005, he has been overseeing the hot

kitchens of Nobu New York and Nobu Next Door as executive chef.

Enter Chef Michael De Jesus

Having crossed the "senior" threshold officially last Aug. 7, my small family of three hied off to Nobu Manila at the City of Dreams. For months I've been deliberating whether to celebrate this milestone with a big bang or just a whisper, finally deciding on the latter. Falling on a Sunday, what better way to celebrate that most special day with intimate company than at Nobu's Sunday brunch buffet, with an option to choose the unlimited Mœt & Chandon Imperial Champagne brunch, at that.

With today's cutthroat competition in the buffet category, where "volume for money" seems to be the rule rather than the exception, very few establishments in the metropolis come out of the heap with their integrity intact. Nobu sits on top of the heap. Quality is paramount, following chef Nobu's light and refined ways of preparing food — especially seafood. Nobu is known for his fusion cuisine blending traditional Japanese dishes with Peruvian ingredients.

This is where we met chef Michael, who joined City of Dreams Manila in January of this year. With nine years' experience at Nobu restaurants and a total of 20 years in the kitchen, his current position at Nobu Manila allows him to infuse Filipino ingredients and methods into Nobu-style dishes.

Two international Filipino chefs coming home and rediscovering their culinary roots — haven't I been telling everyone that Filipino chefs will rule the culinary world sooner than we think? (www.philstar.com)

3 Ways to Teach Kids About Filipino Culture

by Tina Santiago-Rodriguez

August is *Buwan ng Wika* in the Philippines and is usually a time for Filipino-themed celebrations and activities in schools. I'd like to think it is a special time to celebrate being Filipino, though this is actually something we should do all throughout the year.

We parents, especially, need to remind our children to take pride in their cultural heritage. We need to help them cherish their being Filipino (whether in "full" or in "part"), and teach them about the beauty of our Filipino culture.

How do we do this? Here are three suggestions:

1. *Read books that highlight Filipino traditions, festivals and*

other cultural phenomena.

We were given two wonderful children's books earlier this year – *All About the Philippines* and *Filipino Celebrations* (both published by Tuttle Publishing and available locally in most major bookstores) – and they have been my go-to resources when it comes to teaching my kids about Filipino culture.

As a follow-up to our book-reading, we also scout for activities that we can do to reinforce what we have learned. Which brings me to my next tip:

2. *Attend Filipino cultural activities, especially those that are "unusual."*

Our country's cultural heritage is so rich and varied, so there are definitely many cultural activities that you and your



We need to help children cherish their being Filipino and teach them about the beauty of Filipino culture. Photo: Pixabay.com

kids might find "unusual" or unique. This is part of the beauty of being Filipino – there is SO much to celebrate!

You can try searching for Filipino cultural activities in your local community or online. Or you might even be inspired to organize one in your area. Remember, you need not do this only within the month of August

– every day is a day to celebrate being Pinoy!

3. *Get to know important Filipino people.*

Go beyond the usual Philippine history books and try to learn about other Pinoy "heroes". You can try researching about such people online and in other ways, like magazines and books.

For us adults, I would like to recommend books like *The Rise of The Pinoy: 7 Powerful Lessons of Success from 21 World-Class Filipinos*, which was written by Irish motivational speaker Mike Grogan. He's obviously not Filipino but he has a lot of good things to say about us Filipinos, among other things!

You can pick one or two of the 21 "World-Class Filipinos" in Grogan's book, and share what you know about them with your kids during everyday conversations – the possibilities are endless!

Of course, the aforementioned ways to teach kids about Filipino culture and other things related to being Pinoy are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. There are certainly more things we can do to celebrate being Filipino, and we need not limit ourselves to the month of August to do them. Be proud of who you are, and what you can be – all for the sake of God and country!

(www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Graft, Smuggling Charges Filed vs Noy, Purisima

by Michael Punongbayan
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – Former president Benigno Aquino III and former finance secretary Cesar Purisima were charged yesterday with graft and smuggling before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly allowing Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to bring unleaded gasoline into the country without paying the right taxes.

Charged with them are of-

ficials of Shell led by chairman Edgar Chua.

Former customs commissioner Napoleon Morales, tax collector Juan Tan, and journalist Lourdes Aclan accused the respondents of depriving the government of excise and value added taxes now totaling around P100 billion, including interests and surcharges.

Shell allegedly managed to evade payment of taxes by falsely declaring its unleaded gasoline imports as catalytic cracked gasoline (CCG), light

catalytic cracked gasoline (LCCG) and later alkylate from 2004 to 2009.

Such chemicals are described as so-called blending components in the manufacture of gasoline which are not subject to or covered by internal revenue taxes collected by the Bureau of Customs for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The complainants alleged that from 2001 to 2004, Shell was paying taxes for its gasoline importations but stopped doing so from 2004 to 2009

when it changed its declarations of CGC and LCCG as unleaded gasoline to tetrapropylene and from "exclusive for sale" to "blending component."

"Due to this modification in the declaration, all the shipments of Shell declared as CGC and LCCG from March 2004 to 2009 were released without payment of taxes," they said.

When Tan, who is stationed at the Port of Batangas, demanded payment of taxes amounting to P7.348 billion, Shell again allegedly changed its declaration of the imports to alkylate under "waste oil" classification that is not subject to taxes.

An investigation was supposedly conducted on Shell's allegedly fraudulent acts and the results of the same eventually reached Aquino and Purisima.

Aclan said he wrote Aquino a letter in July 2012 informing him of the refusal

of Purisima and other BOC officials to demand payment of taxes from the fuel company, but that his letter was ignored.

"The government has lost over P100 billion including interest, surcharge and 800 percent penalty," read the complaint.

"It is also losing at least P55 million a month or a whopping P1.3 billion as of July 2016, and counting, in addition to the still unpaid P1.99 billion taxes on Shell's alkylate importations, aside from the unpaid P7.348 billion taxes on its CGC and LCCG importations.

"Since 2011, the former president and DOF secretary did nothing but allow Shell to continuously use the P7.348 billion and P1.99 billion government revenue for its own use and benefits thereby giving it unwarranted benefits and causing grave and undue injury to the government."

(www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

Immigration Fraud and the U Visa



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The U visa is a temporary visa granted to victims of certain criminal activities which occurred in the United States, US territory or US military installation. It is granted to victims who suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the criminal activity and who, as a result of being at the receiving end of such an unfortunate circumstance, possess credible and reliable information about the criminal activity.

It is important that the victim is helpful, is being helpful or is likely to be helpful in the course of the investigation and prosecution of the criminal ac-

tivity. In recent years, USCIS has granted 10,000 U visas yearly, which is the cap provided by Congress. It has done a lot in the prosecution of offenses, especially those committed against vulnerable undocumented immigrants.

Before this visa, undocumented immigrants were largely placed in very disadvantageous positions because they could not report the crime for fear of being deported due to their immigration status or lack thereof and they could not seek assistance from the authority for fear of being harmed even more by the perpetrators or abusers. Especially in domestic abuse or sexual abuse cases, the situation would persist because the perpetrator would use the lack of immigration status as a leverage to pin the victims down.

When this was created by Congress with the passage of

the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in October 2000, they listed the following qualifying crimes: abduction, abusive sexual contact, blackmail, domestic violence, extortion, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, felonious assault, fraud in foreign labor contracting, hostage, incest, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, manslaughter, murder, obstruction of justice, peonage, perjury, prostitution, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, slave trade, stalking, torture, trafficking, witness tampering, unlawful criminal restraint, and other related crimes which includes any similar activity where the elements of the crimes are substantially similar. It also includes the attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit any of the aforesaid crimes.

Immigration services fraud is not specifically in-

cluded in the list of qualifying criminal activities but it could potentially fit in the categories of witness tampering, obstruction of justice or perjury.

Recently, lawyers and immigration advocates have lobbied for the inclusion of immigration services fraud in the list. Immigration services fraud is the crime of taking advantage of one's lack of knowledge and understanding of the intricacies of the US immigration law and promising to render services which are fraudulent, unauthorized or rendering nothing at all.

Immigration services fraud come in different forms. The popular one is notario fraud, which is claiming to provide immigration services, without actually being qualified to offer such assistance.

Another form of immigration services fraud is the visa lottery scam, which is promising immigrants that they will

have a better chance of winning the visa lottery, or offering to enter them in the lottery if they pay a fee which are oftentimes exorbitant when in actuality, USCIS does not collect any fees to be entered into said lottery.

Recently, a company with a Las Vegas address has victimized many Filipinos in the Metropolitan New York area promising them quick green card for a fee of \$15,000 each.

Evidently, these practices prey upon the most vulnerable sector of immigrants. In the hopes of one day legalizing their status here in the US, undocumented immigrants rely upon the promises of these services not knowing that they are being taken advantage of.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Rody Tells AFP: Fight Terror a la James Bond

by Alexis Romero
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – How do you prevent terrorism from becoming a full-blown civil war? Deal with it a la James Bond.

This was President Duterte's advice to soldiers as he urged them to be more responsive to the changing security environment by learning new skills.

"The most important thing here is you have to change paradigm. This is no longer a face-to-face war. So it's a matter of detection. Meaning to say, something is afoot and you have to detect to find out what it is," he said at the 48th anniversary celebration of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing at Villamor Air Base last Tuesday.

"Parang James Bond nang larong ito (The game is now played like James Bond)," he said, referring to Ian Fleming's smart and dapper British secret agent character in his



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, third from left, wearing a pilot's jacket, gestures with Defense Chief Delfin Lorenzana, third from right, and Armed Forces Chief Ricardo Visaya, second from left. AP Photo/Bullit Marquez

novels. The character has appeared in several novels, movies and video games.

Duterte explained that playing the game differently is "not so much about the display of might... your 'might' might be stolen from you. So change it a bit because we are dealing with terrorists and there will be explosions after explosions until we find peace."

Duterte has warned that terrorism in Mindanao could metamorphose into a "full blown civil war" if left unchecked. He believes the key to a successful anti-terror cam-

paign is knowing the enemy. "I see in the horizon the dark clouds of terrorism," the President said.

"You have to learn a little bit about your enemy... Study profiling. Start to profile the movements of the eyes, their native dialect. Those are the things you should know."

Duterte said his administration is working to crush the Abu Sayyaf while talking to Muslim and communist rebels to address security threats in the country.

"As much as I would like to really be very strict about,

you know, this thing about war but I am a President and my job is to seek the peace of the land," the President said.

"We cannot be forever fighting Filipinos. We cannot be forever killing our own citizens. So they have agreed to

talk, we can use the extra force now, we can focus them in Mindanao," he said, referring to breakthroughs in peace negotiations with communist and Muslim rebels. With no insurgency to tackle, the Armed Forces can focus on fighting terrorism and banditry, especially in the countryside. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

DOJ Chief: Witness Coached by De Lima

by Edu Punay
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

MANILA, Philippines - Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II downplayed yesterday the testimony of a self-confessed former member of the Davao death squads (DDS) who linked President Duterte to killings in Davao City, saying that the witness was coached to pin down the Chief Executive.

Aguirre said the testimony of alleged DDS member Edgar Matobato was all lies and an old story revived by Sen. Leila de Lima in a desperate move to divert public attention from her alleged links to the illegal drug trade in the national penitentiary.

"The statements of Matobato are all lies, fabrications and have no credibility simply because there is no corroborating evidence. This is what we call lying and coached witness," Aguirre explained in a phone interview.

"It can only be the product of a fertile and coached imagination."

He revealed that Matobato

used to be under the witness protection program of the Department of Justice (DOJ) from 2013 until De Lima left the agency to run for senator.

"If you can recall, De Lima repeatedly said that they had a witness to directly link Duterte to the death squad. But why was he not made public and why was the case not pursued? Because obviously there's no truth to his claims," he commented.

Aguirre also questioned why De Lima, chairman of the Senate justice committee, brought Matobato out at this time when she is facing investigation on her alleged involvement in illegal drugs trade in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City during her tenure as justice secretary.

"Is it because she knows there will be explosive evidence linking her in the Bilibid drug trade? Is she trying to cushion our witnesses?" he asked.

"These are desperate times for De Lima that's why she needs desperate solution."

The DOJ chief also questioned the claim of De Lima that Matobato has not executed

any affidavit yet on his allegations, saying it would have not been possible for the witness to be covered by WPP if he did not submit a sworn statement to the DOJ.

Aguirre stressed that the allegation against Duterte being behind the DDS was pursued by De Lima when she was still chair of the Commission on Human Rights in 2009 and also when she was head of the DOJ in the previous administration.

"It's an old issue that De Lima persistently pursued way back when she was still CHR chair and where the bad blood with President Duterte actually started. There's really no evidence because if there is any, a case should have been filed in court by this time," he explained.

"Senator De Lima had six years to file any case she deems worthy to be filed. The question that begs asking is why pursue this only now when there will be a House of Representatives' hearing on Bilibid drugs proliferation," he said.

Aguirre bared that he even served as a lawyer for Davao police official Benjamin Laud, who was accused of being a

member of the DDS that provided a mass grave for criminals they allegedly killed.

He recalled that several bones were indeed recovered from Laud's property, but stressed that the CHR did not have evidence to prove that they belonged to victims of DDS and so no case was filed in court then.

Aguirre said he would consider asking the National Bureau of Investigation to look into Matobato's statements made before the Senate inquiry and also check if he could again qualify for WPP coverage as discussed by senators in the hearing.

"Mr. Matobato stated that he did not execute an affidavit containing what he stated before the hearing. One cannot be part of the WPP without executing an affidavit. He is obviously not telling the truth. Can

he be trusted?" Aguirre added.

"I personally know what happened to the case of Benjamin Laud since 2009 because I lawyered for him, I was there when the Commission on Human Rights, then headed by Senator De Lima, ordered the bodies of the alleged victims of extrajudicial killings be exhumed at Laud's firing range in Maa, Davao.

"The bodies did not prove anything. As a matter of fact, there were statements that they were bodies of people who were executed during the Japanese occupation," Aguirre said.

"Also, think about this, Senator De Lima headed both the CHR and the Department of Justice, why was it that there was no case filed against Mayor Duterte? Senator De Lima had more than six years to file any case she deems worthy to file," said Aguirre.

(www.philstar.com)

Yasay on U.S.: Don't Lecture Us on Human Rights

by Camille Diola
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines' top diplomat on Thursday night defended President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs at a security forum in Washington, saying Filipinos are not "little brown brothers" of America and should no longer be taught about human rights.

Asked how the Philippines and the United States will move forward after the canceled meeting between Duterte and US President Barack Obama and the deaths in the drug war, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay said the two countries should work within the premise of being "sovereign equals."

"We are asking our American friends and American leaders to look at our aspirations, we cannot be forever the little brown brothers of America (as we were) at one point in time. We have mature, we have to develop, we have to grow," Yasay told an influential Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He said the partnership with the United States should not be conditional and insisted that the

Philippines understands the sanctity of life and freedom, which led to the struggle for independence from America in the 1940s.

"You do not go to the Philippines and say, 'I'm going to give you something. I'm going to help you develop, I'm going to help you grow. But these are the checklists you must comply with. We will lecture you on human rights.' No. We know that our goal toward the full respect for human rights with accordance to international norms," Yasay said.

About 3,500 people have been killed in police operations and by vigilante groups since the start of the Duterte's administration three months ago.

The bilateral meeting between the Obama and Duterte was canceled by Washington and prompted Duterte to issue an apology, denying that the harsh words were directed to Obama.

In his address to the forum, Yasay tried to assure Washington that Manila is not condoning unlawful killings.

"In the book of President Duterte and in my book, extrajudicial killing has no place in our society," Yasay said.

(www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 17, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 780-4985

WAKE UP WESTSIDE: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR | September 17, 2016, Saturday | 9:00 a.m - 12noon | NANĀKULI HIGH SCHOOL, 89-980 NANAKULI AVE, WAI'ANAЕ, HI 96792 | Contact: Michele Van Hessen @ 3808-586-7031 or 808-227-4332 (mobile) or email: mvanhess@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL-HAWAII CHAPTER'S 6TH ANNUAL DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AWARDS GALA | September 24, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | FILCOM CENTER | Tickets at \$60 per person. Contact persons: Mario Palma 808-397-862, Danny Villaruz 808-778-0233 or Florante Pumaras 808-386-6912

FILCOM CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER 2016 | October 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | Contact 808-80-0451 for more information

LA UNION CIRCLE OF HAWAII, MISS AND MRS. LA UNION HAWAII USA 2016 CORONATION & DINNER | October 22, 2016, Saturday | 5:30 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | For more info, contact Baybee Hufana Ablan @ 753-5616, Laurie An Tadina @ 358-0474 or Lolita Domingo @ 295-1387

MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL BY THE MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | October 15, 2016, Saturday | 10:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m | MAUI MALL, KAHULUI, MAUI | Contact Kit Zulueta @ 808-291-9407

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION'S 33RD ANNUAL KIMONA BALL & BUSINESS WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION | November 19, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HAWAII PRINCE HOTEL | Contact: Nancy Walch @ 778-3832 or Elsa Talavera @ 358-8964

PASKO SA FILCOM | December 4, 2016 | FILCOM CENTER | Contact 808-680-0451 for details.

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES | December 14-Dec. 23, 2016 | Contact: JP Orias @ 387-8297 for further information

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hospitals, nonprofit groups and governmental agencies. CSAAH is the only center of its kind in the country dedicated to research and evaluation on Asian American health and health disparities. CSAAH seeks to eliminate health disparities facing the Asian American population through research, training activities and partnerships with more than 55 community and governmental partners.

MAINLAND NEWS

8th Biennial Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Health Conference

The Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH) at NYU School of Medicine's Department of Population Health will hold the 8th Biennial Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Health Conference on September 26, 2016 at the Langone Medical Center's Farkas Auditorium.

The conference is co-hosted by AARP and entitled "Aging Together, Bridging Generations." The goals of the conference are to bring diverse stakeholders together from across the country to prioritize healthy aging and to increase the

collection of meaningful disaggregated data about older adults of Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (NHPI) ancestry.

The AA and NHPI population is one of the fastest growing and diverse older adult populations in the U.S. and is projected to grow to 8.5 million by 2060, from 1.8 million in 2012. However, there is a lack of targeted health resources, research and services focused on this growing population.

"The Aging Together conference is a unique event that provides a forum for community-based or-

ganizations, hospitals, academic institutions and nonprofits to engage and collaborate on issues affecting Asian American older adults and their families," says Daphne Kwok, AARP vice president of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy. "We are proud to co-host the conference in order to focus attention and conversation around AAPIs 50-plus and hope that it spurs conversation, research and cross-cutting work."

There will be dozens of speakers from community-based organizations, academic institutions,

APALA Supports Prisoner Strikes

Prison inmates nationwide recently launched a peaceful strike against the use of their forced labor and are calling for reforms to prison policies and practices and improved living conditions. The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) supports the inmates and voices concern over the use of

forced labor in a criminal justice system it insists is built to criminalize communities of color, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

"Tactics like forced labor serve as a way to deprive folks of any dignity or worth of their work in society," says APALA Executive Director Gregory A.

Cendana. "Our criminal justice system needs to focus on restorative and transformative models of justice that value the person as a whole, and we're calling on the labor movement as a whole to address the rights of workers inside."

The strikes come at a time where community organizations and advocacy groups are

urging the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Bureau of Prisons and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to follow the Department of Justice's lead to end the use of private prisons and detainment centers. Abuse, mistreatment and poor living conditions are not uncommon in prisons and detention centers, especially in private operated institutions.

APALA is a member of AAPIs Beyond Bars, a coalition of labor, education, civil rights and criminal justice organizations that work to address mass incarceration and deportation in the AAPI community. Founded in 1992, APALA is the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

BOOK REVIEW

RIZAL IN OUR TIME, Essays in Interpretation

By Rose Churma

The commentaries in this book seek to reassess the works of Rizal and provoke a re-thinking of what it

means to be a Filipino in a Philippines that seems to be in perpetual crises, or as part of the more than 10 million overseas Filipinos. Rizal as an exile within his own country and as

scholar/traveler in the U.S. and Europe, may provide lessons for us and yield clues useful for re-discovering our historical tradition of resistance against colonial domination. It may also help us seek resources within ourselves for renewing the revolutionary legacy and internationalist solidarity that Rizal embodied in his life and works. Bruce Franklin of

Rutgers University comments that the author "is now one of the world's most distinguished progressive critics." He further says that E. San Juan "is certainly the world's leading scholar and critic of Filipino literature and undoubtedly the leading authority on Filipino-American literary relations." (from the back cover). The book is available at Kalamansi Books & Things (bookbook.com) or email <kalamansi-books@gmail.com>. \$8.25 plus S&H.



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From the Management and Staff of the

CHARLIE Y. SONIDO M.D. INC.
PRIMARY CARE CLINIC OF KAUAI
LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES, LLC
HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE, INC.