



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

♦ OCTOBER 21, 2017 ♦

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EDITORIALS

Support Doctors-On-Stage Production to Benefit the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls

There are countless worthy non-profit organizations that provide important public benefits in advancing specific causes. These non-profits fill a gap where government or personal finances cannot meet needs. Without these non-profits, our communities across our nation would have more starving families, less scholarships available for deserving low-income students. Animal care, environmental preservation, pro-bono legal assistance, and homeless shelters are just a few areas that non-profits are making a difference.

With the increasing cost of medical care and millions of Americans still uninsured or underinsured, there is also an urgent demand for affordable and free clinics where non-profits can make a tremendous difference. The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, Inc. (BCWW) has been such an organization for Hawaii residents. Established by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) in 1997, BCWW has been providing free medical services to those who have no medical coverage in the State of Hawaii. Low-income residents, the homeless, immigrants and people who cannot afford traditional medical coverage can utilize this healthcare organization's free medical and dental services.

BCWW sees an average of 100 patients per month and has provided services to some 21,000 recipients. In addition to its clinic, BCWW participates in community health fairs statewide and assists in medical missions outside of Hawaii. Some of its free services include primary healthcare, physical examinations, obstetrics gynecology care, breast/prostate tests, eye care, counseling, dental work, and select medical laboratory tests. There are top tier professional volunteers on staff in general practice, internal medicine, family medicine, cardiology, dentistry, ear, nose throat, geriatrics, neurology, oncology, psychiatry, and physical therapy.

BCWW is truly a noble humanitarian non-profit deserving of our community's support. It's transparent for donors and contributors to see the valuable work BCWW has been doing over the years. With your continued support, BCWW can continue to help our needy community with healthcare services.

This why our community should come out and support this year's Doctors-On-Stage production of Downtrodden. Doctors-On-Stage productions is put together every two years as a major fundraising event to benefit BCWW. Physicians and their guests present a first-rate theater production that tackle different themes and raise social awareness. Attendees are always surprised how talented these singing medical professionals are, and the overall quality of the production. If you are a supporter of BCWW or simply just loves the arts and theater -- come out to Ewa and watch Doctors-On-Stage production of Downtrodden this Saturday, October 28. It will be great entertainment for a great cause.

Silent Republicans Should Pay a Price of Defeat in the Midterm Elections



hen Republican Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee tweeted that the White House had become an "adult day care center" and told the New York Times he worried that the President might set off "World War III," many Americans were encouraged thinking that finally a top Republican had the courage to stand up to Trump and speak the truth. But Corker, who announced

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Doctors-On-Stage productions has presented major fundraising events for the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, Inc (BCWW) every two years. Its theater productions have been highly successful and an enjoyable method of fundraising -- sponsors and BCWW supporters are entertained; and doctors get an opportunity to showcase their special talents in performance art. This year, Doctors-On Stage presents Downtrodden, a poignant musical about being crushed and cared for.

For our cover story this issue, Director of Downtrodden and Chronicle's Entertainment reporter JP Orias writes about the show, the songs to be performed, the cast and guest artists, and the sponsors of this wonderfully entertaining event. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is among the major sponsors of Downtrodden. We hope the community can come out and support BCWW and the doctors.

Be sure to attend this entertaining fundraiser on Saturday, October 28, Matinee Show at 3:30 p.m., Gala Performance at 7:30 p.m., at the Kroc Center Hawaii Theater on 91-3257 Kualakai Parkway, Ewa Beach. For Tickets (Matinee): VIP \$40; Wings \$30; General Admission \$20 and (Gala): VIP \$70; Wings \$50; General Admission \$30) please call 888 674-7624 or 808-391-7678

In our news section, Hawaii challenged Trump's Third Travel Ban and Federal District Judge Derrick K. Watson ordered a nationwide injunction on it. Attorney General Doug Chin said "Hawaii fought the first and second travel bans because they were illegal and unconstitutional efforts to implement the president's Muslim ban. Unfortunately, the third Travel ban is more of the same," said Chin. The state of Hawaii, once again, is taking a leading role nationally to challenge these controversial bans.

In other news, could it be possible that moving to Hawaii makes people less racist? Read a study released by University of Hawaii at Manoa researchers who say people's attitude towards race changes when they move to Hawaii.

Also in this issue, in a move that could weaken the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), President Donald Trump said the federal government will stop payments to insurers that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage. Key subsidies known as cost-sharing reduction payments will be stopped and could affect 7 million Americans. Experts say this could lead to higher premiums and weaken the ACA marketplaces as insurers who do not receive payments could opt to bail out. Critics say this latest move by Trump is another attempt to weaken ACA to ultimately get it repealed.

Lastly, please enjoy reading our regular columns. Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan wrote about the "Mistreatment of Temporary Workers" in his Legal Notes; Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon wrote "Fiance Visa is Still the Best Way to Bring Alien to USA to Become Spouse" in his What's Up, Attorney? column; and Seneca Moraleda-Puguan wrote "Hope in the Midst of Chaos" in her Personal Reflections column. We also have two interesting historical columns. One by contributing writer Federico V. Magdalena, PhD, Acting Director of the UH Manoa Center for Philippine Studies, who wrote "Mindanao -- Almost the 50th State of the USA." The other by our regular columnist Emil Guillermo, who wrote "How Filipinos Were First to the Mainland Before the Pilgrims."

Thank you all for your continued support. Until next issue, a warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay*!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

his plan not to run for reelection, perhaps is speaking out because he is not at political risk and free to say whatever he wants without pushback from die-hard Trumpers in a future election. The same could be said of Senator John McCain and Congressman Jason Chaffetz, both Republican critics of Trump not up for reelection.

For a majority of Republicans, the modus operandi has been complicit silence. Less than a handful of Republicans, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina most notable among them, have criticized the President on occasion, and only in extreme cases like in the post-Charlottesville controversy when it was politically safe to do so. But by and large, Republicans remain silent as the president continues to upend American values and wedge wider divisions among Americans by exploiting race and religion.

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OPEN FORUM

Woodside Succeeds in Defending Against Megachurch in Larger Fight Against Gentrification and Displacement

by Anakbayan NY

In September 2016, the Universal Church, on 69th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, had proposed to expand itself right in the heart of the Woodside community. The proposed structure of the “megachurch” would stand 70-feet high, taller than any surrounding building in the area. Not only would such a development be out-of-context in Woodside, but it would also break New York City building code that limits the height of building construction. It would set a dangerous precedent for commercialization and future

development in the Woodside Community. And as a result would encourage gentrification and the displacement of residents especially working-class immigrant families. Organizations in New York City, such as Queens Anti-Gentrification Project (QAGP), Filipino American Democratic Club of New York, National Alliance of Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), and Anakbayan New York (ABNY) had convened with the Woodside community in response and strong opposition to this proposed development. In turn, these progressive community organizations and allies



formed the Coalition to Defend Little Manila, dedicated to fight against the construction and expansion of this “megachurch” and its threats of gentrification of Woodside and displacement of its working-class migrant residents.

Woodside is an important neighborhood not only to its residents but to the larger New York City area and the Filipino diaspora. It has also been, for the majority of its history, a working-class immigrant neighborhood. With establishments

like Krystal’s Cafe, Phil-Am Food Mart, and many other Filipino businesses, Woodside has become an established home for the Filipino community of New York. As majority of the Filipino community are working-class immigrant families forced by economic pressures to leave our homeland, it’s little surprise that Woodside—especially the “Little Manila” area—is so important to the diaspora. Residents interviewed throughout the campaign see the area as a piece of their homeland.

The immigrant population of Woodside is vulnerable to forces such as Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) that break into homes, workplaces, and schools to criminalize and deport community members, break up families,

(continued on page 14)

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

How much longer will it take before more Republicans speak up and temper the leader of their party who has already debased the office of the presidency to new lows and already ran through the mud the United States’ reputation internationally like he did at his address to the United Nations and exit from the Paris Accord? How many more lawsuits of civil rights breaches and unconstitutionally questionable policies harmful to immigrants Americans must endure before Republicans finally censure the President in the strongest terms. His deranged rhetoric and anti-diplomatic approach to the North Korea crisis is dangerous enough to explore even impeachment proceedings by way of the 25th Amendment, Section 4. To an increasing number of Americans, this president is simply unfit to perform his duties.

In a recent massive survey of more than 470,000 registered voters in every state and the District of Columbia, Americans appear to have lost patience with Trump. A majority of voters in 25 states and DC said they disapproved of the president’s job performance in September, including the upper Midwest states that were critical to Trump’s victory.

Trump retains support from a majority of voters in only 12 states, mostly in the South. The Morning Consult survey found Trump’s approval dropped ranging from as high as 30 percentage points in Democrat states to as low as 11 points in Republican states. Even in the south and Midwest where Trump easily won last year, voters’ approval of Trump nose-dived: Tennessee (-23 percentage points), Mississippi (-21 points), Kentucky (-20 points), Kansas (-19 points) and Indiana (-17 points). The battleground states in the Midwest that determined last year’s race showed Michigan (55 percent disapproval), Wisconsin (53 percent), Iowa (53 percent), and Pennsylvania (51 percent).

Based on this poll, if the elections were held this month, it would be difficult for Trump to get reelected. But after last year’s shocking result that showed Trump way behind Clinton prior to election night, Americans just don’t believe in polls as they used to, especially if you are a Republican politician seeking reelection in a close race. The Trump poll meter just simply isn’t reliable; and it’s undeniable the passion Trump’s base has for him, specifically from right-wing disenfranchised whites and re-

ligious evangelical Protestants. These groups’ support has been unwavering. Trump literally could do no wrong with them, which is odd considering that Trump hasn’t improved manufacturing, opt out of NAFTA, nor is he an exemplary Christian by any stretch.

Some crucial questions Americans should be asking: Is it right that a majority of Americans (remember Clinton won the popular vote and based on new polls that majority has grown) be held hostage to the political right just because of an outdated electoral system? -- a situation political scientists refer to as tyranny of the minority (Trump supporters’ tyranny onto the larger part of the country). At some point, when do Republicans reject the destructive extremism playing out and put the country’s welfare above party politics? Is it right that Republicans living in deep red states completely disregard the will of a majority of Americans living in other states -- at all cost, even if it means loosening the very binds that keep us united as one nation? Are Republicans really content with the extremist outfit the president has dressed that party with? Has the Republican party in fact become an extremist party?

Whatever the case might

be, the GOP’s silence after Trump’s series of scandals ultimately must be interpreted as tacit approval; and that they should be held accountable for their inaction. The stage is set for next year’s midterm election. While it is not a presidential election, it’s guaranteed that Americans who disapprove of Trump will be treating it as if were. Rest assured, each Senate and Congressional seat up for grabs will be a contest between Trump vs anti-Trump candidates, regardless of who

is really running. If there is a major shift in Democrats favor, Republicans have only themselves to blame for not standing up to arguably the most divisive and dangerous U.S. president in modern history.

If in fact Senator Corker is right in his assessment that Trump is setting up the U.S. towards WWIII, what’s at stake is far greater than just the midterm elections Republicans are worrying about. The GOP could be the party that allowed WWIII to happen.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

Doctors Sing and Dance for a Good Cause

By JP Orias



owntrodden,” a poignant musical about being crushed and cared for, is a Doctors-On-Stage production for the benefit of Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), a non-profit organization which gives free medical and dental services to underserved immigrants. It is a story about the oppressed and marginalized and their struggle to survive and how their faith is restored to once again become fully functional and integrated back to the community. It will be staged at Kroc Center Hawaii Theater, 91-3257 Kualakai Parkway, at the junction of Ewa Beach and Kapolei, on Saturday, October 28, 2017 with a matinee show at 3:30 pm and Gala Performance at 7:30 pm.

“Downtrodden” is the seventh major production by Doctors-On-Stage that follows other previously thematic productions “Journey,” “Believe: In Praise of Faith and Freedom,” “Love Stories,” “In Tune with War and Peace,” “Rainbow Connection,” and “Butterflies and Kisses.” Doctors-On-Stage Productions is the brainchild of Dr. Charlie Sonido who not only sponsors the theater productions, but also assists in the creative process of developing the themes. JP Orias once again takes on the role of Artistic Director of this year’s production.

The Cast

The all-doctors cast of

Downtrodden is composed of Waipahu internist and pediatrician Sorbella Guillermo, MD; internist and critical care specialist Nestor Del Rosario, MD; family physician Noelani Coreen Hobbs, MD; Edgar Manuel, MD, APRN; pediatrician Benilda Luz-Llena, MD; Ariel Jay Flores, Doctor of Physical Therapy; Honolulu internist Nicanor Joaquin, MD; family physician Russell Tacata, MD; dentist Maria P. Adora, DMD; Wahiawa internist Josephine Waite-Ansdell, MD; Waianae family physician Carolina Davide, MD; surgeon Ross Simafranca, MD; and geriatric specialist Ritabelle Fernandes, MD; and newly minted physician Jasmin



Doctors-On-Stage Productions “Downtrodden” cast during a rehearsal. Front Row: Cora Aczon, Drs. Russell Tacata, Josephine Waite-Ansdell, Benilda Luz-Llena, Ritabelle Fernandes. Second Row: Jay Flores, DPT, Drs. Noelani Coreen Hobbs and Charlie Y. Sonido, Maria P. Adora, DMD, and Dr. Carolina Davide. Third Row: J.P. Orias, Fernando Adora, Drs. Ross Simafranca, Nicanor Joaquin and Nestor Del Rosario, Anna Davide and Edgardo Manuel, MD, APRN, Drs. Jasmin Kelly and Sorbella Guillermo.

R. Kelly, MD, narrates.

Many of these doctors are veteran Doctors-On-Stage performers.

“I have been involved with ‘Doctors-On-Stage’ since 2012,” said Ariel Jay Flores, DPT. “Dr. Sonido invited me to join after he saw me singing at a Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) event. For this production, I am in the cast, but I also assisted JP in the technical areas of this show.”

The range of music experience among doctor-performers is vast. Some of them can boast of having years of extensive formal training and come from musically-inclined families such as Dr. Nicanor Joaquin who was a member of the Panama Singers during the late 1900s and the Silangan Singers

in the late 2000s. Others are natural singers with big hearts for music.

“I did not have any formal singing lessons except for 6 months of training at Papuri, a Christian recording company in the Philippines, when I was in college,” said Flores, who is currently the Vice-President, and volunteer of BCWW.

For veteran Doctors-On-Stage performers doctors Benilda Luz-Llena and Nestor Del Rosario, participating in the musicals is an effective stress outlet from the demands of a busy medical practice. Dr. Del Rosario said it’s also a creative outlet. Dr. Luz-Llena says the shows are “entertaining and Broadway caliber.” Veteran performer Dr. Cielo Guillermo takes time out of her busy clinical practice and her job as vice-president of Hawaii Filipino Healthcare and primary caregiver of her elderly mother to devote hours of perfecting her performance on stage. As for general surgeon Dr. Simafranca, who is on his fourth show, he said he joined because “I believe God gives each person a gift and for me that gift is my voice. This is a wonderful way of glorifying Him and helping others who have fallen on hard times.”

Like in previous years, “Downtrodden” will be supported by a mix of talented guest performers. Among them are young DOS family vocalists Erica Brenner and Anna Davide, Fernando Adora who partners with Dr. Adora in special dances, Ceres Yanong who shares special Latin steps for Despacito, and the ballerinas of Rosalie Woodson Dance Academy with their special lyrical and hip hop numbers choreographed by RWDA Director Charlene Barro and company.

Barro is a newbie to Doctors-On-Stage productions but is no stranger to theater. She performed in Army Community Theater’s “South Pacific” in the ‘90s and plays the piano, sings, dances ballet, tap, jazz, hula and hip hop.

She got involved with “Downtrodden” in what some people might call the law of attraction. “For weeks after watching Hurricane Harvey and the work of the Red Cross, I was thinking about a way I could help others,” said Barro. That altruistic energy she was putting out and desire to do something good led to her helping with BCWW’s major fundraising event. “I was sitting at my desk, my phone rang

(continued on page 5)

A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

An authentic Filipino restaurant near the Kahului airport is for sale.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, DOCTORS...)

and it was JP, who inquired if I had dancers (from Rosalie Woodson Dance Studio) that could perform for the BCWW show. I couldn't believe what I was hearing, my call (to do something charitable) was answered. I didn't hesitate."

Barro also is using this opportunity to teach her dancers the importance of giving back to the community. "I feel it's a good cause. I want the girls to experience and see how as professionals, the doctors, are giving back to the community. I want to impress upon the dancers how their involvement can give others a 'hand-up.' I'm so excited to be part of this event and am impressed with the time and dedication the doctors have displayed. They're such wonderful role models for my students," said Barro.

In between juggling their busy work as doctors and family life, the cast of "Downtrodden" rehearsed for weeks, putting in hours day in and out, to ensure that supporters and sponsors will enjoy top-level entertainment. Memorizing lyrics and perfecting tone and pitch of an extensive catalogue of songs take a lot of work.

Downtrodden will feature more than 20 songs from movies (La la Land), musical theater favorites (Hunchback of Notre Dame, Bandstand, Little House of Horrors, Beauty and the Beast) and top hits of well-known singers Miley Cyrus, Michael Jackson, Sia, Sara Bareilles and Kelly Clarkson, to name a few. "It's

like bringing a Broadway show to Honolulu" claims Cora P. Aczon, musical director. The live music accompaniment of pianist Aczon is supported by Reggie Padilla, saxophone; and Duayne Padilla, violin. Professional photographer Tim Llena once again provides the relevant background slide production.

Retired banker Chris Yamada attended several Doctors-On-Stage productions in the past and enjoys the top caliber performances. "I enjoy the theater production they've been presenting. I also attend to show my support of BCWW and its overall mission."

Each Doctors-On-Stage production has been well received by audiences. Tessie Quemado commented of a previous show "Butterflies and Kisses" that it "looked like a real Broadway presentation. The costumes were colorful and attractive."

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls

Doctors-On-Stage Productions has been a major fundraising event for BCWW. Many of the doctor-performers actively volunteer their time and expertise to this non-profit organization that provides free medical and dental services to those who have no medical coverage in the state of Hawaii. Low-income residents, the homeless, immigrants who cannot afford traditional medical coverage regularly visit BCWW clinic. BCWW sees an average of 100 patients per month and has pro-

vided services to some 21,000 recipients. It also participates in outreach projects at community health fairs statewide and assists in medical mission outside of Hawaii. BCWW was started by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). BCWW staffs over 70 volunteer physicians ranging from general practice to specialists as well as other health professionals.

Current president of BCWW Dr. Russell Tacata said "Since BCWW continues to survive despite a lack of government funding, through Doctors-On-Stage, we are able to generate funds to continue our mission of service to immigrant and homeless individuals who cannot afford medical insurance."

BCWW's exceptional humanitarian work drew several major sponsors to Downtrodden. They are Hawaii Filipino Health Care (Diamond), Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, HMA, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. and Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (Gold), Sorbella Guillermo, MD, Inc. and William Wong, MD, (Silver), McMann Eye Institute, House of Finance, Champion Medical Solutions, FMS Hawaii & H & R Block, Prudential, Marivic Dar, Danelo Canete, MD Inc., Kapolei Eye Care-Nancy

"**Since BCWW continues to survive despite a lack of government funding, through Doctors-On-Stage, we are able to generate funds to continue our mission of service to immigrant and homeless individuals who cannot afford medical insurance.**"

-Dr. Russell Tacata, BCWW President

Chen, MD, First Hawaiian Bank and Atty. Chris Chui/Mark Chui, CPA (Bronze) and Bank of Hawaii (Copper).

"We are proud to sponsor Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls and this event because it brings awareness to the important work they do in providing healthcare to the underserved populations in our local community, and around the world through Ohana Medical Mission," said Dr. Michael McMann, of McMann Eye Institute.

"It is with profound gratitude to be able to work with many of the doctors that are involved with this production,

and we look forward to supporting the ongoing mission of BCWW with the island spirit of Aloha," said Dr. McMann.

Owners of House of Finance Roland and Evelyn Casamina, another sponsor of the event, said, "This is our way of supporting efforts of the doctors who provide free health services to the needy."

For tickets (Matinee): VIP \$40; Wings \$30; General Admission \$20 and (Gala): VIP \$70; Wings \$50; General Admission \$30) please call 888 674-7624 or 808-391-7678 or email pmahinfo@gmail.com. You may also book online through: <https://bcww.ticket-spice.com/downtrodden>.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Governor Ige Makes Goodwill and Trade Mission Trip to the PHL

Gov. David Ige joined the Filipino Chamber of Commerce on a goodwill and trade mission trip to the Philippines from October 14 through 22, and met with government officials and community leaders in Manila, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Cebu.

Ige was the first governor in 10 years to visit the Philippines. Joining the governor and First Lady Dawn Amano Ige were an entourage of 50 Hawaii business leaders.

While in the Philippines, Gov. Ige led a variety of meetings with locals as well as participated in cultural events, tours,

activities and ceremonies. Among the significant events -- the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the State of Hawai'i and the League of Provinces, establishing Sister State relationships with several provinces in the Philippines. The governor also took part in a wreath laying ceremony at Rizal Park and visited the University of the Philippines.

The First Lady Dawn joined the governor for various events and ceremonies. She also visited Pitogo Elementary School and a Consuelo Foundation orphanage.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

This year, I made a pilgrimage to a special landmark that you may miss unless you happen to be looking for the only public restroom at a particular vista point in Morro Bay, California.

For Filipinos, maybe even for all Asian Americans, maybe it should be considered our mecca.

Or perhaps our blarney stone to kiss in order to receive that gift of history.

Morro Bay is the place where the first Asians landed on what would become the most Asian American part of the nation.

Now I've been to Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts before, and I must say this is much more exciting.

In Morro Bay, a special rock marks the original landing of Filipinos to America on Oct. 18, 1587, some 33 years before the Pilgrims landed.

1587? The first Filipinos from Asia landed in America? Yes, and they didn't grab a thing. At least, not for themselves. They even gave the indigenous Indians they met food and clothing, as peace offerings as fellow "Yndios."

They were the "Un-colonizers."

And yet, we still make such a fuss about those Mayflower folks with their big

How Filipinos Were First to the Mainland Before the Pilgrims



hats and buckles, as if that's something to be thankful for.

And those First Filipinos? Well, as usual, it's still the same old story, a theme modern-day Asian Americans are surely familiar with.

We just don't count.

Filipinos may not have had the power, but first is first.

Technically, they were the hired help, the shiphands of Pedro De Unamuno, who sailed for Spain, as he landed on Morro Bay, close to San Luis Obispo on the Central Coast of California.

While Unamuno, not a Filipino, is only partially obscured in history as one of those "have-boat-will-travel" New World explorers, the Filipino parts of the story are almost totally obscured.

The turning point in all this has been the original research of Unamuno's logs published in UCLA's Amerasia Journal in 1996 by Eloisa Gomez Borah, a librarian and

a trustee of FANHS. She makes the case for a Filipino presence, telling the story of how Unamuno was part of a Spanish expedition led by Francisco Gali in 1584. When Gali died, Unamuno lost command of the two ships he inherited after taking a side trip to Macao. Stranded in Asia, Unamuno was finally able to buy another boat, described by Borah as a "theirsingle-deck three-masted vessel" named Nuestra Senora de Buena Esperanza.

And the deckhands were mostly from the Philippines.

On July 12, 1587, Unamuno headed for points east and was at sea until the end of his voyage on November 22, 1587 in Acapulco, Mexico.

But there was a brief three-day land excursion between October 18-20 that turned out to be their foray onto California's central coast.

Unamuno sailed with the Franciscan Father Martin

Ignacio de Loyola, nephew of the founder of the Jesuit order, a few priests, and soldiers.

The logs also reveal the presence of at least eight Filipinos identified as "Yndios Luzones," or Luzon Indians from the northern Philippines island of Luzon.

They were jacks-of-all-trade seamen, seen as the brawny manpower of the ship. In an email exchange, Borah told me too often they were left off the logs.

"Filipinos present on these early explorations and trade ships were overlooked in captains' logs," Borah said. "Even in Captain Unamuno's log, which I chose because he did mention "Indios Luzones" (it was spelled both with an "I" and a "Y"), documenting the presence of Filipino natives was inconsistent, as my count in the article provides the proof."

Borah counted "Yndios" appearing in the logs 42 times total. In 23 times, it was a reference to the native Californians encountered, but 19 times it described the crew.

But they mattered on Sunday, October 18. That's when Unamuno, after anchoring off the California coast in a place he called Puerto San Lucas, formed a landing party.

It was 12 armed soldiers led by Father Martin Ignacio de Loyola, cross in hand. But even before the cross, up ahead of them all were two Filipinos armed with swords

and shields.

It was their typical formation.

But note: The Filipinos were first. Being fodder comes with some privilege.

On day one, the expedition climbed two hills, saw no settlements or people, and took possession of the land for the King of Spain.

On the second day, October 19, eight Filipino scouts led a priest and 12 soldiers for further exploration.

It was on the third day, October 20 that the expedition encountered violence. But not before there was an effort from the ship's barber and some Filipinos to make a peace offering of food and clothing.

Maybe they needed clothes, a meal, and a haircut?

Borah said it was fine until the Indians tried to kidnap the barber, and that's when a violent exchange ensued. The log noted one soldier was killed, but so was one unnamed Filipino, by a javelin, his blood spilled on American soil.

Unamuno didn't stay long. He left by daybreak on October 21 for Acapulco.

The significance of three days?

Borah calls it the unique evidence of a Filipino presence that is too often obscured when historians fail to identify or differentiate among non-Europeans in their crew.

When I contacted her last year (when I wrote my original piece on Unamuno for this blog), she was adamant.

"Filipino natives, among the non-white indios of that era, did not write the logs or the letters to the king or any other contemporary documents," Borah wrote me in an email exchange. "However, Filipino indios were 4 out of 5 who worked the Spanish galleons (Schurz, 1939) in crossing the Pacific for 250 years, and they were the advance guard in the land expeditions and provided the information evidenced in Cap-

(continued on page 9)

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

iling a visa petition for an alien fiance/fiancee is still the best way to bring an alien to the United States to become your spouse. When we say "best" that means it is the fastest (because it is a nonimmigrant visa and requires less documentation and background checks) and the surest way. We can say this without contradiction because we have a 100% success rate in fiance/fiancee visa petitions. Of course there are certain people (including immigration attorneys) who will suggest – just go to the Philippines (or whatever foreign country) and marry the girl, then come back and petition for her. When she arrives, she can immediately go to work. Sin verguenza. Is that the reason you petition for an alien spouse – to make her work? What if your alien spouse is beautiful and is led into temptation by a co-worker as some spouses who had just arrived. And they were not even beautiful.

Scores of U.S. citizens have filed a visa petition for an alien spouse and failed. For how can a USCIS adjudicator or a consul believe that the petitioner has a bona fide marriage to the alien spouse when they have met only once, they get married in less than 10 days (faster than Ferdinand Marcos who took 11 days to woo and win Imelda) so the petitioner can rush back to his job before his 2-week vacation expires, and they do not have any joint documents and other supporting documents to establish the bona fides of the marriage?

Some come to us to reverse the denial of the visa petition. We have always succeeded but after considerable effort and expense that could have been avoided if the petitioner had come to us and we filed a fiancee visa petition.

Fiance Visa Is Still the Best Way to Bring Alien to USA to Become Spouse

What is needed for Fiancee Visa Petition

The following are needed for a fiancee visa petition. Form I-129F filled up and signed by petitioner with a statement on where, when, and how petitioner met the fiancee in person, their courtship, and marriage plans; Form G-325A signed by petitioner with one passport size picture; Form G-325A filled up and signed by alien beneficiary with two passport size pictures. The filing fee is \$535. Check uscis.gov to be sure the version of the forms and the amount of the filing fee are current.

Documents relating to the U.S. Citizen petitioner:

1. Document establishing U.S. citizenship such as Certificate of birth showing birth in the United States or Certificate of Naturalization.

2. U.S. Passport of Petitioner, with the relevant pages containing Biographic Data and entry stamp showing travel to fiancee's country to meet fiancee.

3. Flight Itinerary showing travel abroad to meet fiancee [helpful but not mandatory]

4. Airline boarding passes showing trips to and from abroad to meet fiancee [helpful but not mandatory]

5. Hotel receipts showing petitioner's stay abroad [helpful but not mandatory]

6. Documents establishing termination of prior marriages such as Divorce Decree with, or death certificate of, petitioner's first spouse [if applicable]

Documents relating to alien fiancee:

1. Certificate of Live Birth.
2. Certificate of no previous marriage or documents establishing termination of prior marriages such as divorce decree with, or death certificate of, first spouse

3. Declaration by fiancee of intent to marry petitioner within 90 days of admission to the United States.

Documents relating to both petitioner and alien fiancee:

1. Pictures of petitioner and alien fiancee together, and if possible with fiancee's relatives or friends

2. Communications between petitioner and alien fiancee, such as letters, cards, and printouts of internet messages.

3. Other documents to establish bona fide fiance-fiancee relationship [if any]

What is needed for Visa Petition for Alien Spouse

The following are needed for a visa petition for an alien spouse:

Form I-130 filled up and signed by petitioner; Form I-130A filled up and signed by alien spouse; Form G-325A signed by petitioner with one passport size picture; Form G-325A filled up and signed by alien beneficiary with two passport size pictures. The filing fee is \$535. Check uscis.gov to be sure the version of the forms and the amount of the filing fee are current.

Documents relating to petitioner:

1. Evidence establishing U.S. citizenship such as Certificate of birth in the United States or Certificate of Naturalization or if not a U.S. citizen, Permanent Resident card.

2. Passport of Petitioner, with the relevant pages containing his Biographic Data and entry stamp showing he actually resides in the U.S. and he traveled to wife's country to meet her.

Documents relating to alien spouse:

1. Certificate of Live Birth of alien spouse

Documents relating to both petitioner and alien spouse:

4. Documents to establish cohabitation after the marriage.

5. Birth certificates of children [if any]. There are a number of cases where the parties submitted the birth certificates of children, but USCIS still said that they failed to establish the bona fides of the marriage.

COMMENT: Take your pick. Would you rather go the faster and more certain route with a fiancee visa or the slower and more complicated route with a visa for an alien spouse that requires a plethora of documents which, even if submitted, might not convince the USCIS adjudicator or consul that you have established the bona fides of your marriage by a preponderance of the evidence? If your fiancee visa petition is denied, you can always go abroad and marry your fiancee, and then file a visa peti-

(continued on page 9)

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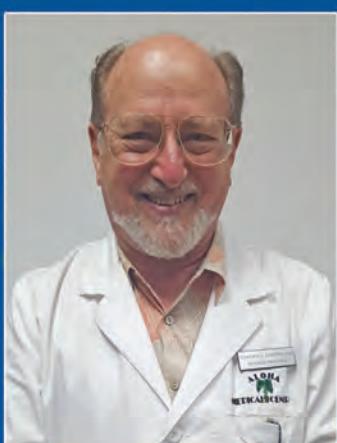


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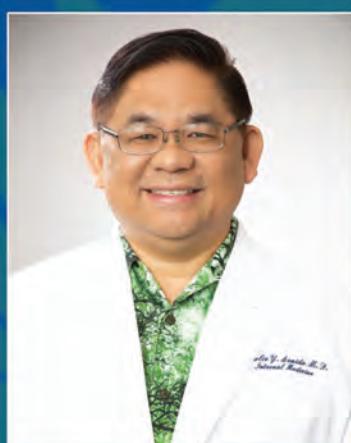
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MAINLAND NEWS

Trump to Visit Hawaii and the Philippines

The Office of the White House Press Secretary announced on September 29 that President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit the Philippines, Hawaii, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, and Vietnam from November 3-14, 2017.

On November 3, the President will visit Hawaii and be briefed from the U.S. Pacific Command. He will also visit Pearl Harbor and the USS ARIZONA Memorial.

The President will arrive in Manila, Philippines, on Nov. 12 to participate in the

Special Gala Celebration Dinner for the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). On November 13, the President will celebrate the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations at the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and participate in bilateral meetings with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines and other leaders.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 6, HOW FILIPINOS...)

tain Unamuno's log."

She added, "What needs to be done now is the championing of our history, because while Filipino 'crabs' snipe at our history that is documented by academic research, the Chinese are championing fable in 1421: The Year China Discovered America [by a former British Navy officer Gavin Menzies]."

Borah was referring to a much discredited story that suggests China discovered America before Columbus.

So it's interesting that Filipinos are still forgotten, unre-

marked upon, and ignored, even as they exist as nearly a quarter of the more than 20 million Asian Americans today.

And yet of all the Asian Americans, Filipinos were here first. They even spilled blood, yet left empty-handed after three October days in California, 1587.

That's why the Filipino American National Historical Society is championing the cause. And why not? Columbus was in the West Indies, not on the continent. Unamuno and the Filipinos were before

the Pilgrims, before Jamestown.

But most of us know of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria, the boats of Columbus, the Italian who sailed for Spain and landed somewhere other than America.

And come November, we fuss over the Pilgrims and their Mayflower.

But Unamuno's Our Lady of Good Hope, loaded with Filipino crewmen? How many of us know this fine point of history?

We should all see annual

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY (from page 7, FIANCE VISA...)

tion for such alien as a spouse. On the other hand, if you marry an alien spouse whom you have met for the first time, and file a visa petition for the spouse but it is denied, you would have to appeal to the appropriate immigration authorities and pay a fee in accordance with the instructions of the denial letter.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philip-

pines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, 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 for United States citizens.

optional). Thank the Filipinos for not making a bigger stink about it all. Let us savor history and celebrate with a big Filipino meal in honor of the first Filipinos to America, 430 years ago, October 18, 1587.

After all, first is first.

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. Listen to his podcast: Emil Amok's Takeout <http://emilamoktakeout.libsyn.com/website>

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FEATURE

Mindanao – Almost the 50th State of USA

By Federico V. Magdalena, PhD



as anyone wondered that Mindanao would have been the 50th state of USA?

Well, it almost happened in 1926, when HR 12772, otherwise known as the Bacon Bill, was submitted to the US Congress. Here is the full story.

The bill, named after its proponent Congressman Robert Bacon of New York, would create an expanded "Moro Province" – which would cover all of Mindanao (ironically, it excludes Misamis province), Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, and Palawan islands to be placed under the direct authority of the United States, and outside the jurisdiction of the Philippine Islands.

A note is in order to put into context the Moro Province. This place was an administrative territory governed by the US military, while the rest of the Philippine Islands was under the hands of a civilian government known as the Philippine Commission. It consisted of five districts in Mindanao where the Muslims (called Moros) and other tribes were predominant – the undivided provinces of Lanao, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Davao and Sulu. The Moro Province lasted for about a

dozen years (1904-1913) under three veteran American officers, Generals Leonard Wood, Tasker Bliss and John J. Pershing. They all had extensive experience fighting the fierce American Indians back home – Apache, Cheyenne, etc.

The Moro Province proposed by Cong. Bacon would embrace nearly all the islands of Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, and Palawan. Obviously, the motive was economic and political, under the pretext of "protecting" the Moros from their "ancestral enemies" – the Christians, who were then poised to take full control of Moroland through the "Filipinization" policy that began in 1914. This policy was initiated by the Democrats in Washington, DC.

History tells us that both Hawaii and the Philippines came under the aegis of US imperial control as territorial possessions. In 1898, they were annexed with the US, together with other Spanish territories like Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and several others in the Pacific like Micronesia's Marshall Islands and Palau, among others. The Philippines and Puerto Rico became Unincorporated Territories, where the US Constitution only partially applied.



▲ Maria Cristina Falls in Lanao del Norte, Mindanao

On the other hand, Hawaii and Alaska were Organized Incorporated Territories. Both had organized governments authorized by an Organic Act passed by the US Congress. The Philippines was a special case. It was also governed by an Organic Act in 1916 under the Jones Act, which declared the intention of the US to grant Philippine independence "as soon as a stable government can be established." At best, this provision was nebulous and subject to varied interpretations.

The Moros, for one, were a blunt instrument against Philippine independence. Many American officials saw Christian Filipino rulers' inability to impose control over them and the entire Philippine Islands. These non-Christian elements, as Moros and tribal communities are also called, were out of reach from modern living. They lived in isolated regions and were constantly in rebellious mode. Thus, the conclusion that the Philippines under Christian Filipino rule was not ready for independence. Bacon capitalized on this perceived weakness to promote the US annexation scheme.

The Bacon bill was long in coming. Its idea germinated in 1905, 1909, 1910, and the 1920s due to agitations among the Moros, and after a series of US missions sent to study their fate and their homeland under native Filipino rule (i.e., Filipinization). For example, the last of such missions, the Wood-Forbes in 1921, justified American control of the Moro Province as a matter of responsibility:

"The Moros are a unit against independence and are united for continuance of American control, and in case of separation of the Philippines from the United States, desire their portion of the islands to be retained as American territory under American control. The Pagans and non-Christians, constituting about 10 percent of the population of the islands, are for continued American control. They want peace and security. These the Americans have given them."

The Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce (dominated by American businessmen), with the aid of some Moro leaders and their American friends in Mindanao also sent resolutions to the White House invoking the need to protect Moros. That without the Americans in command, there would be chaos. Moros did not want to be delivered to the Christian Filipinos whom they considered their "born enemies," according to petitioners some of whom were Americans themselves. (PI Governor-General William Cameron Forbes noticed that in one of the petitions, the Americans were the first to sign it, and most likely wrote it themselves!) But the Christian Filipino leaders also badly desired Mindanao to be entrenched in the upcoming independent nation, as symbolized by the three stars of the Philippine flag. The stars represent Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Perhaps the most proximate motivation for the annexation bill was the Moro petition of 1924, "Declaration of Rights and Purposes..." addressed to

US Congress. In it, Moro leaders declared:

"First. We are not seeking temporary or palliative measures. We ask for a solution which will be permanent and lasting in its effects. Therefore, we propose that the islands of Mindanao and Sulu, and the island of Palawan be made an unorganized territory of the United States of America."

For his part, Bacon saw the potentials of Mindanao and Palawan to advance US interest in the Pacific. Mindanao offered ample opportunity for growing valued crops needed by the United States military that rose to prominence since World War I. Rubber was an important commodity, and so was abaca (Manila hemp), then a booming agribusiness in Davao managed by Japanese planters.

For the global community, Mindanao was the place to meet the high demand for pineapple, sugar cane, and banana with American capital. It had vast public land (as much as 90%) available at that time, suited for mass production. The combined area of Mindanao and Palawan was estimated at 44,094 sq. miles, compared to Hawaii's only 6,417 sq. miles. Hawaii was earlier a favorite site for growing pineapple and sugar cane by Castle and Cook and its subsidiaries. Dole Company, which established its signature pineapple business in Hawaii, began eyeing at other places to expand its operations. And the easiest places where to go were US colonies like the Philippines. (Today, Dole Philippines maintains pineapple plantations of at least 13,000 hectares in South Cotabato, Mindanao, through lease agreements. This is the largest pineapple plantation of parent Dole Asia Holdings in Asia.)

In his speech, Bacon's major arguments to create a new Moro Province and remove it from Philippine jurisdiction betrayed not only his bias for the Moros but also his anti-Philippine independence stance (Speech, Congressional

(continued on page 15)



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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

As I gaze upon my two-year-old daughter sleeping soundly in the comfort of our humble abode, so many things are running in my mind and questions bothering my heart.

In a world full darkness, chaos and strife, what future awaits her? Is there hope for her and her generation? Will I be able to protect her? Will she be all right?

As we lead our lives comfortably at home, hundreds and thousands of innocent people suffer each day from injustice, war, and terror. We are bombarded with bad news through social media every single minute. It is horrifying. It is discouraging. We are reminded each day of the futility of life. Indeed, tomorrow is not in our hands.

The attacks in London, Las Vegas, France, Spain...

War in Syria, Marawi City in the Philippines, Myanmar,

North Korea...

Nations are at war, religions are clashing, beliefs are contradicting. Drugs are proliferating. Corruption is thriving. Poverty increasing. Even Mother Nature is expressing her wrath- earthquakes, hurricanes, and wild fires. Indeed, we live in a divided world. We live in a time of turmoil and disarray. We live in a place where selfishness, greed and pride exist. We live among men whose hearts are calloused and hard. Times are getting tougher.

But there is more to life than these. Just as the cliché says, every cloud has a silver lining.

As I wake up in the morning, knowing that I am still



breathing, I am reminded of hope. As I look at the smile and the laughter of my toddler, I am reminded of joy. When I sleep at night and think about God's faithfulness and sovereignty over all the earth, I am reminded of peace and it quiets my anxious heart.

In the midst of the terrible things happening around me, I have learned to do one thing – to be grateful. Just recently, South Korea celebrated 'Chuseok', its traditional Thanksgiving Holiday. Families gathered together to celebrate a bountiful harvest and to honor

their ancestors. Our family took this time to rest and meditate on the goodness of God in our lives. We went to a beautiful garden to make us realize His beauty. We spent our rest days with family and friends to celebrate the beautiful relationships He has blessed us with. There were days we just lied lazily on bed, cuddled and just enjoy the rest that comes from Him. We also took several family pictures, especially of our toddler who is growing in perfect health, in wisdom and in beauty. It is to create wonderful memories that we can always look back to.

There are still so many things to be grateful for – the air that we breathe, the sun that rises every morning, perfect health, provision, family and friends. Simply being alive is worth praising God for.

There is still hope. We can have peace. We can have joy... because Jesus has overcome the world. He is alive. He has won the victory. It is finished.

The world may throw ter-

rible things at us, things that will break our hearts and destroy our dignity, but we will overcome. We may fall but we will rise up. We can take heart!

At this very moment, I am gazing at my beautiful two-year-old daughter sleeping soundly in the comfort of our humble abode. Yes, so many things are running in my mind, so many questions bothering my heart. But I have found the answer.

I believe that a great future awaits her. She is destined for greatness. There is hope for her and her generation. She is the hope of her future. She will be a blessing to her generation. I might not be able to protect her from the things of this world, but I trust that she will be all right.

In this truth, I will stand. In this truth, my heart finds peace. Her world is in His hands.

"A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you." – Psalm 91:7

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Blocks Third Trump Travel Ban

Federal district Judge Derrick K. Watson ordered a nationwide injunction against President Donald Trump's third travel ban. The President's September 24, 2017 proclamation, creating an indefinite ban on travel that targeted an overwhelmingly Muslim population, was set to go into effect on October 17, 2017.

"Judge Watson's ruling makes clear that we are a nation of laws, no matter what this administration may try to do. There is a place here for peaceful immigrants from every corner of the world: Spain, Syria, Sudan, or Singapore. There is no place here for discrimination or xenophobia," said U.S. Senator Brian Schatz.

Earlier attorneys representing the state of Hawaii filed a challenge to the Trump administration's third travel ban.

"This is the third time

Hawaii has gone to court to stop President Trump from issuing a travel ban that discriminates against people based on their nation of origin or religion. Today is another victory for the rule of law. We stand ready to defend it," said Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin

"Hawaii fought the first and second travel bans because they were illegal and unconstitutional efforts to implement the president's Muslim ban. Unfortunately, the third travel ban is more of the same," Chin added.

The original ban targeted people from Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan. The new ban announced in a presidential proclamation on Sept. 24 removed Sudan from the list and added people from Chad and North Korea and certain government officials from Venezuela from entering the United States.

Unlike the former travel bans, the third travel

ban has no expiration date.

The new ban could affect tens of thousands of potential immigrants and visitors to the United States. Opponents have said that like the earlier two orders from January and March, it was still effectively a "Muslim ban."

Hawaii's motion challenging the third travel ban states it "flouts the immigration laws' express prohibition on nationality discrimination, grossly exceeds the authority Congress delegated to the president, lacks any rational connection to the problems it purports to address and seems to effectuate the president's promise to ban Muslims from the United States."

The state of Hawaii and the American Civil Liberties Union also are asking the Supreme Court to review the case of the expired travel ban, saying individuals who sued have an interest in the expired measure being declared un-

lawful because they continue to be harmed by the new policy (third ban) that is an extension of the previous one.

The Supreme Court dismissed the expired travel ban

case but it may still have to weigh in on the issue in the future as challengers have filed suit against the reworked ban, and those cases potentially could reach the high court.

(continued on page 14)

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EXIT FROM TPP IS DEVASTATING

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Beef – it's what's for dinner." Remember that commercial? The more markets for American beef, the better our ranchers fare. That means jobs for American workers, taxes to support our government, paychecks being spent in local chains of commerce – a good deal all around.

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) was expected to be a blessing for ranchers. Asians enjoy the taste of grain-fed American beef and pork. (Australia feeds grass to its livestock, giving its meat a different flavor.) Annually U.S. pork exports run \$6 billion and beef exports run more than \$7 billion, making it important to maximize global sales points for our meat. In 2016, 26% of U.S. pork was sold in foreign countries, and of that \$6 billion in ex-

ports, \$1.5 billion was bought in Japan alone. Even more critical to our ranchers, Asians are willing to eat parts of livestock Americans won't, further increasing their profit potential. Expecting the growth that the TPP would bring, some industry members invested in equipment and expansion, but may instead face lean years with the loss of Asian opportunities. Other key Asian markets for our beef include Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In 2015, U.S. beef exports to Taiwan ran \$318.5 million, \$20 million to Indonesia, and \$63.4 million to the Philippines.

The TPP agreements negotiated by the Obama Administration and backed by free trade Republicans helped make U.S. meat competitive with Australian meat in the critical Asian sector. The Pacific Rim conducts 40% of world trade. Trump shot American ranchers in the hoof and our vineyards, too, when he pulled out of the



TPP. The trade deal would have restored American leadership in this crucial market.

Under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, the tariff on Australian frozen beef is 28.5% and 31.5% on chilled Australian beef. American beef had a much higher 38.5% tariff, and since August 1 this year, the additional safeguard 11.5% put American beef at a whopping 50% disadvantage. For processed meat products (like beef jerky and meat extracts) these also run up to 50%. The Trans-Pacific Partnership would have cut Japan's tariffs down to 9% for frozen and chilled beef and 0% on processed beef, making it much more affordable for Japanese to buy our meat. In the important Vietnam market, the tariff on U.S. chilled and frozen beef is 20%, which would have been cut to 0% under the TPP. The new Australian-Vietnam trade agreement completely eliminates its tariffs by 2019.

Pacific Rim exports for American agriculture bring in \$63 billion a year into our economy. The eleven nations of the Pacific Rim buy more than 40% of our products. Economists projected that tariff eliminations of the TPP would have increased that by another \$3 billion a year. Since Trump and Congress backed out of President Obama's efforts to firm up Asian markets for American farmers and ranchers, these countries have speedily made new trade agreements that leave out the U.S. In Asia, only South Korea and Singapore have trade agreements with the U.S. With 2/3 of the world's middle class projected to live in Asia by 2030, this loss could be devastating to American economic strength.

went to Trump, from big agricultural states like Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, and Indiana. These states depend on exporting their food products to foreign markets. Without the TPP, our competitors, including Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union can negotiate trade deals to make their products much lower priced than American ones. The Pacific Rim countries quickly undertook 27 separate trade deals after the U.S. threw out President Obama's TPP.

After two years of intense, monthly negotiations on the TPP by the Obama Administration, Japan lost no time granting European agricultural producers access to the markets that American farmers and ranchers were supposed to enjoy. We Hawaiians know Japanese like tonkatsu, the delicious pork cutlet served with curry sauce and a sprinkling of red ginger. The new European Union (EU) - Japan agreement makes EU pork \$2 per pound cheaper than American pork.

American vineyard owners struggling with recovery after the California wildfires will have to deal with losses in Asia because U.S. wine will continue with a 15% tariff while European wines will have no tariffs. After President Trump torpedoed the TPP, these new trade deals resulted in a 44% increase of European Union pork exports and a 19% increase in Canadian pork exports. Canada is projected to gain a market share of \$412 million in beef and \$111 million in pork exports to Japan, thanks to its new Canadian-Japan agreement.

It's not just American farmers and ranchers who will suffer for the shrinking access to 40% of the global market. The economic well-being of the surrounding community is also at stake: agricultural employees, hairdressers, ice cream shop workers, insurance company staff, storeowners, mechanics, teachers, and others who work in those farm areas also depend on that industry for their livelihood.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

Alot of people in the world aspire to work in the United States. This may be because there are not enough jobs in their country, or the value of the United States dollar in their country is very high, or they would like a better life for themselves and their family. One of the ways to work in the United States is through the temporary work program.

The two most common work programs are the H-2A temporary agricultural work program (H-2A program) and the H-2B temporary non-agricultural work program (H-2B program). Other programs refer to domestic workers. Domestic workers usually work for diplomats, representatives of international organizations and businessmen. The law states that their employers

Mistreatment of Temporary Workers

should provide them with employment contracts that comply with United States laws.

The Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security have jointly issued regulations for the H-2A and H-2B programs. H-2A and H-2B workers are entitled to federally funded legal services for employment issues, guarantee of three-fourths of the hours in the job contracts, and reimbursement for travel to the United States after completing 50% of the job and protections against employer retaliation. In addition, H-2A workers are entitled to free housing and are exempt from social security tax.

For all temporary workers, their employment contract must include the following provisions: an agreement by the employer not to keep from them their passport, employment contract or other personal property; an agreement by the employer to follow all United States laws; an explanation of salary and the frequency of payment of salary;



and a description of the work duties, weekly work hours, holidays, sick and vacation days.

Although there are laws in place to prevent the trafficking and abuse of the temporary workers, there are a lot of problems. Temporary workers have experienced wage abuses, inadequate living conditions, discrimination, imprisonment or limitation of movement, sexual abuse and threats of deportation.

To begin, the abuse and mistreatment of the workers begin with the workers not even having signed contracts with their employers as required by law. Second, although there was an agreed

salary during the application phase in his home country with the foreign recruiter, when the worker arrives and starts working in the United States, he is paid less or made to work for a lot more and is also paid less. Sometimes the work is substantially different than the work agreed upon.

Another reason why abuses occur is because the visa of the workers is tied to one employer only. The workers feel trapped and decide to endure the abuse because they cannot leave and get another job with another employer. Furthermore, they have no leverage to even talk to their employers to ask for a better treatment or wages because their employer has their passport and visa and sometimes money. If they even ask, they will be threatened with loss of their job and wages.

Debt is another way for abusive employers to continue the mistreatment of temporary workers. The employers charge the employees with fees for lodging and utilities,

even if sometimes there is no clean water or food provided. The debt begins with the recruiters in their home countries who charge large fees for their services and make the worker pay for the travel to the United States. The workers are not reimbursed for the travel expenses even after working for at least 50% of the stated period.

Lastly, some workers have reported that they were not allowed to leave the premises of their worksite or forced to live on their worksite. They were treated like prisoners and denied their human rights.

The mounting problems with the H-2A and the H-2B programs and the domestic workers have led to changes in the laws. The important thing is for the workers themselves to be brave and report abuses when they occur.

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

HEALTHY TIPS

Stop Overthinking or Stressing Yourself Out

By Matthew Mettias

It's that time of year again: the holidays on their way, high school seniors are filling out college applications (parents are worrying about how to pay for college), and work is getting more stressful as the winter quarter emerges.

Among the stress, mental roadblocks, and feelings of being overwhelmed, it is important to remember one crucial piece of advice: don't sweat the small stuff!

Over the past year, I've been reading one page a day from a book titled *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* by Dr. Richard Carlson. In the book are simple tips that help make life less stressful. Allow me to



share a few with you:

Ask yourself, 'Will what I'm worrying about matter a year from now?'

If you are stressing out over something, think about if worrying about that something will benefit you a year from now. For instance, I have a (unfixable) bad hair day today. A couple years from now, how

my hair looks on this one day won't mean anything. Nada. Zilch.

Therefore, I should stop worrying.

Don't overthink.

Have you ever struggled to remember someone's name (or anything really) and then took a nap or a long walk, only to stumble upon the answer along the way? I know I have. By giving your brain a break, you allow your mind to effortlessly pull out the answers from its subconscious division. Don't believe me? Look at Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison; they used the same method when struggling with a mental roadblock.

Don't overthink it!

Treat Yourself!

Life is stressful. I get it. Although for most of us, life is fast-paced, remember to give

yourself a break, whether it is for five minutes, one hour, or a full day. Oftentimes, it is even counterproductive to overwork and burn yourself out.

So take a break, treat yourself a little, and then go about your life the way you normally would. And if all else fails, remember that you know you best. Trust yourself!

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Attitude Towards Race Changes When Moving to Hawaii

Researchers at the University of Hawaii at Manoa released a new study that suggests moving to Hawaii can make you less racist. The study, called "The Role of Diversity Exposure in Race Essentialism Over Time," was first published in the Journal Social Psychological and Personality Science.

Ninety-nine students who

all identified themselves as White and had been living in Hawaii less than a week filled out a questionnaire for the research. Nine months later, the same students took the same questionnaire and their answers regarding race had changed.

The study found that ethnicity of other people became less important to many of the

study participants in that short period of time.

"The thing that changed the most was their ideas about race as a category," said University of Hawaii associate professor of psychology Kristin Pauker, who headed up the study. "I think there is something unique about being in an environment where everywhere you look you see someone who doesn't necessarily look like you."

(from page 11, HAWAII BLOCKS....)

Trump's three successive moves to block entry into the United States by people from several predominantly Muslim countries have been among his most contentious acts since taking office in January. Trump had promised as a candidate "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

The ACLU told the court that the plaintiffs who sued to stop the policy "retain an all-too-real stake in the outcome

of the case" even though the original 90-day travel ban on people from six countries expired on Sept. 24. That order was signed by Trump in March and was enacted with some changes in June with the high court's blessing.

The Supreme Court justices asked all the parties to file court papers expressing views on whether the case was moot, meaning there was nothing left to decide, because the temporary ban expired.

OPEN FORUM (from page 3, WOODSIDE....)

and ruin lives. The Philippines and countries across the world have been plundered by the United States for cheap labor and resources, while the people who inhabit these countries are left landless, jobless, and impoverished. Forced to leave their homes and countries behind, they come to the U.S. to find livelihood only to be made vulnerable by police and ICE but also real estate developers and other forces of gentrification and displacement.

On January 5th, Community Board 2 (CB2), representing the Woodside, Sunnyside, and Long Island City neighborhoods, held its regular meeting with the megachurch proposal

on its agenda. At that time, ABNY mobilized its members alongside the Woodside community in a speakout and rally against the megachurch construction to emphasize that it is the community who will decide what happens in Woodside, and the megachurch proposal was pushed to February 3rd. On February 3rd, the Coalition alongside Woodside residents mobilized to voice their concerns and dissent against the megachurch, and CB2 unanimously voted against the proposal. The Universal Church had then submitted its application to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), asking for a variance to expand the church

beyond the jurisdiction of CB2 and bypassing NYC zoning laws and building code. ABNY had successfully submitted a request to BSA dismissing the application on June 7, 2017, making it even harder for the Universal Church to continue forward in their development.

As a progressive Filipino youth organization fighting for national democracy in the Philippines, we in Anakbayan view any attack on our Woodside community as an attack on Filipinos abroad. This is why we stand against gentrification of our communities. We are also inspired by the work of other grassroots organizations such as Serve the People - Awaken Revolutionary Con-

sciousness (SPARC), and are keenly interested in the development of Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network (BAN). We are humbled by the support of the community in this fight. It was not CB2 nor the BSA that had defeated the megachurch development. It was the Woodside community, its residents and business owners, that had voiced their concerns by petitioning against it, by attending Community Board meetings, and sharing with members of the Coalition how they opposed such a development in their community. It was the community, and it is only ever the community, who can truly lead in its own defense, protection, and development. We un-

derstand that this small victory is but one step in a larger struggle against gentrification and displacement and that only with the support of the people can we achieve real victories in this fight.

Anakbayan New York calls on the community to continue to fight against gentrification of our neighborhoods and the displacement of our people. We can only do this by building unity and people power through community organizing.

The open forum was provided by Danica Pagulayan, Anakbayan NY Chairperson; Mike Legaspi, Anakbayan NY Solidarity Officer; and Daniel Dunn, Anakbayan NY Mass Member

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DOCTORS-ON-STAGE'S DOWNTRODDEN | October 28, 2017 | 3:30 pm; 7:30 pm | KROC CENTER HAWAII THEATER | For further info, call JP Orias at 888-674-7624 (Fax: 888-391-7624) or visit www.bayanihanclinicwwhawaii.org

HALLOWEEN AND MASQUERADE BALL FUNDRAISING, PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (PNAH) | October 29, 2017 | 5:00 - 10:00 pm | ALA MOANA HOTEL, RUMUOURES NIGHTCLUB | Cost is

\$30.00, heavy pupus and one drink included. For reservations, contact Ramon Sumibcay @ 489-7148, Tina Salvador @ 426-6183 or Tina Fernandez @ 721-1721.

ANNUAL KIMONA BALL AND BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS | November 4, 2017 | 6:00 pm | DOLE CANNERY POMAIKAI, BALLROOM AT IWILEI ROAD, HONOLULU, HI | Contact Elsa Talavera @ 358-8964.

MAINLAND NEWS

Trump to End Obamacare Payments That Help Millions of Poorer Americans

President Donald Trump informed a federal appeals court that the government would immediately halt payments to insurers that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The decision could upend individual insurance markets across the country.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that since the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, had not set aside a sum of money to reduce payments to insurance companies, the U.S. government could not legally make these cost-sharing reduction payments.

In the filing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, officials wrote that the Health and Human Services Department has stopped what's known as cost-sharing reduction payments, which help offset deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs for roughly 7 million Americans.

The payments were stopped, the filing said, because they were not formally appropriated by Congress. The documents include an Oct. 11 legal opinion from Attorney General Jeff Sessions, informing HHS and the Treasury Department that he believes "the best interpretation of the law" indicates that money appropriated to HHS "cannot be used to fund" the subsidies.

FEATURE *(from page 10, MINDANAO...)*

Record – House, May 1926:

"The segregation of the Moro country from the rest of the Philippines would not only prove an unqualified blessing to the Moro peoples and go far toward clearing the American people of the one black page of their Philippine occupation, but it would, as stated, eliminate what must otherwise continue to be an insurmountable obstacle to any pretensions of the Christian Filipinos to self-rule."

Let us try to compare Mindanao and Hawaii, each region has its own strengths and weaknesses.

Mindanao has enormous fertile



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. swiftly condemned the Trump administration's decision to slash key Obamacare subsidies — an act that could cause health insurance companies to bolt from the online marketplace and dramatically increase out-of-pocket costs for poorer Americans.

"Sadly, instead of working to lower health costs for Americans, it seems President Trump will single-handedly hike Americans' health premiums. It is a spiteful act of vast, pointless sabotage leveled at working families and the middle class in every corner of America. Make no mistake about it, Trump will try to blame the Affordable Care Act, but this will fall on his back and he will pay the price for it," Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement.

"Now, millions of hard-working American families will suffer just because President Trump wants them to," they continued. "If these reports are true, the President is

lands favorable to plantations. However, it is far from the US - the nearest point is California, which is 11,772 miles away. In contrast, Hawaii is only 2,467 miles away. Additionally, Pearl Harbor in Hawaii's Oahu Island promised an excellent cove and natural cover for the US Navy.

Hawaii's people seem to be more tractable. Though the Native Hawaiians under Queen Liliuokalani opposed American rule, they were peacefully protesting when the Republic of Hawaii was formed with Sanford Dole as first Territorial Governor. Not a single drop of blood was shed. The Queen wrote US President Cleveland with the hope and prayer

walking away from the good faith, bipartisan Alexander-Murray negotiations and risking the health care of millions of Americans."

The subsidies total about \$7 billion this year. The subsidies go to insurers that are required by the law to help eligible consumers afford their deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses. The cost-sharing payments are separate from a different subsidy that provides federal assistance with premiums to more than four-fifths of the 10 million Americans with ACA coverage.

Stopping the cost-sharing payments would be the single greatest step the Trump administration could take to damage the marketplaces.

Ending the payments is grounds for any insurer to back out of its federal contract to sell health plans for 2018. Some states' regulators directed ACA insurers to add a surcharge in case the payments were not made, but insurers elsewhere could be left in a position in which they still must give consumers the discounts but will not be reimbursed.

Some top health officials within the administration, including former HHS secretary Tom Price, cautioned that this could exacerbate already escalating ACA plan premiums.

that her kingdom be restored. The request was denied.

On the other hand, the Moro Province was in constant trouble. There, numerous juramentados (roughly equivalent to amoks) would go on a rampage killing everybody along their path. The US military battled warlike Moros and launched several pacification campaigns with the use of brute force. Three major battles left their marks in history: the Battle of Bayang of 1902, the Bud Bagsak Battle in 1906, and finally the Bud Dajo Uprising in 1913.

Native resistance movements in effect created so-called "Moro Problem" for American administra-

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tors, who regarded them as like the hostile American Indians of the Wild West, in wide contrast with the aloha spirit adored by Native Hawaiians.

The final verdict came. Bacon's bill failed to pass in the US Congress, and the plan for annexation of the southern Philippines came to naught.

Hawaii became the 50th state of USA in August 1959. Mindanao remained a backwater.

FEDERICO V. MAGDALENA, PhD, is Acting Director of the UH Manoa Center for Philippine Studies. He has just completed a peacebuilding project in Mindanao, under a grant from the US Institute of Peace, and is now engaged in a collaborative online course (ASAN 407 – Peace Processes in Philippines & HI) with Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology and Ateneo de Zamboanga University.

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