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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ DECEMBER 9, 2017 ◆

IT'S CHRISTMAS, IT'S PASKO, LET'S CELEBRATE!

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EDITORIALS

We Are Lucky to Have Two Major Pasko Events on Oahu: FilCom's and FAUW's

Filipinos love Pasko (Christmas) so much that they celebrate the season for almost 5 months, beginning in September and ending on the third week of January. This extraordinary fondness for Pasko says a lot about the values and culture of Filipinos. To begin with, there is deep religiosity and devotion to Jesus and the Catholic faith. While the commercialism of Christmas is a big, fun part of the season too, it takes a backseat to attending church masses, Misa de Gallo, and Christmas Eve midnight mass. In the Philippines, Pasko is principally a religious holiday. An example of this is the popularity of the parol, the star-shaped Christmas lantern, that represents the Star of Bethlehem that led the three kings to Christ's manger. To Filipinos, that symbol is even more beloved than any other Christmas symbol popular in the west, including the Christmas tree or Santa Claus.

To add another layer of meaning to the parol that clearly reflects Filipinos' religious values, the parol is commonly made of native materials such as bamboo and capiz shells. This, too, is a symbol of Filipino identity, and in a way, embraces the people's native heritage, pre-Hispanic, even pre-Catholic past.

The most anticipated and highlight of the Pasko season is the much celebrated Noche Buena, the dinner that takes place after Christmas Eve midnight mass, when family and friends gather and talk-story all night long.

Pasko, its customs and practices, may be unique and distinctly Filipino in myriad ways; but at its core, Pasko is very similar to the way Christmas is celebrated in most countries around the world. It's about celebrating God in one's life, celebrating family and friends, celebrating life itself. It is about refocusing on the things that really matter and showing appreciation for the people we love. How we do that sometimes comes in the way of exchanging gifts, expressing one's love (verbally, in action, or just by being kinder), and sharing quality time together. It's about simple fun and great companionship. For Filipinos, the practice of sending over balikbayan care boxes and remittances to relatives back in the Philippines is unique and very much a part of the Pasko tradition.

Hawaii's Filipinos and our diverse, multicultural community are lucky to have two events that annually present Pasko traditions and customs. The FilCom Center will present Pasko sa FilCom once again, on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at the FilCom Center in Waipahu. In addition, the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) Hawaii is celebrating Pasko! at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA) on Sunday, December 17 as part of BOH's Family Sunday. It will be the 30th year the FAUW Hawaii presents this annual Pasko event.

We encourage our readers, everyone in our community, to attend both events and enjoy the festive cultural practices of Pasko. Both are family-friendly events and can be educational to some Filipino families who lost some of the Pasko traditions through the generations.

A big mahalo and kudos to the FilCom Center and its collaborating organizations for presenting their successful event each year. The same goes to the FAUW and its partnership with HoMA -- their event has been successful in sharing Filipino Pasko traditions to many in the mainstream and Filipino community.

Have a glorious and merry Pasko season!

FROM THE PUBLISHER



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," as the popular song goes. The air feels crisper, colorful lights dress stores and shopping malls.

The overall vibe is dialed back to a less frantic holiday mode, unless you happen to be one of those overly enthusiastic Christmas shoppers.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo writes about Pasko (Christmas) traditions and customs of the Philippines and how they are observed in Hawaii. Two Pasko annual events have helped to perpetuate these customs (some universal and others distinctly Filipino) on the island of Oahu. The Filipino Community Center once again will present Pasko sa FilCom on Sunday, December 3, 2017, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the FilCom. There will be lots of entertainment, games, contests and food. The second event later this month, presented by the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) Hawaii, is Pasko! at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA). In its 30th anniversary, this FAUW Hawaii annual event will be on December 17, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Honolulu Museum of Art. It too will be a fun-filled family event centered on Pasko customs and traditions, including the art of parol-making (Christmas lantern). If you haven't already been to either one of these events, I encourage you to attend. You and your family will revel in the festivities and learn a few traditions you might incorporate into your own celebrations.

Also in this issue, HFC contributor Sheryll Bonilla, Esq. submitted a Q&A with attorney Daisy Lynn Balais Hartsfield who shared her experiences as a Filipina and woman in the legal profession in Hawaii. She also talked about Filipino values of placing family first and having a hard-working ethic as inspiration for her success. Now an attorney with a solo practice in family law and criminal defense, Balais Hartsfield paid her dues working as a Deputy Public Defender, Deputy Attorney General, Supervisor of the Hawaii Drug Court Program and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, among other positions. She was also a Social Worker before entering the field of law.

Also read Renelaine Bontol-Pfister's entertainment review on the wildly popular Filipino American comedian Jo Koy, who recently played a record-breaking 11 shows at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. Koy was well received, to say the least, and showed his appreciation to Hawaii fans by performing in many shows over the 1 hour scheduled time, and tailor-made jokes specific for our Hawaii audience. As one of the few Asian comedians, Koy has broken the "ethnic" barrier and hit mainstream success, appearing on Comedy Central, Netflix specials, and popular night shows such as Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon.

Lastly, be sure to read the latest in our news section. Locally, the Philippine Consulate General will be honoring sakadas (early plantation Filipino immigrants) on the state-declared Sakada Day on December 20. Filipino World War II veterans will take part in the annual Ewa Plain Battleship Commemoration on December 9. And the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) released a report showing steady, positive economic growth for the State in the next few years.

On behalf of the management and staff of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, I would like to wish our many supporters a wonderful, blessed Pasko season. Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*



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Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

EDITORIALS

Just Because Trump Won an Election, Shouldn't He Still Be Investigated for Sexual Harassment?

From Hollywood to the world of politics, recent sexual harassment allegations have come to light and leveled against very powerful, influential men.

Film producer Harvey Weinstein and several top actors, including Keven Spacey, were accused of numerous sexual misconduct from accusers. Since the string of revelations, both Weinstein and Spacey lost their jobs and their future in Hollywood is basically finished, not to mention possible civil and criminal legal matters loom for the pair.

In politics, Republican nominee in the upcoming Alabama Senate race Roy Moore, was accused of assaulting teenage girls when he was in his 30s. Soon after, Democrat Senator Al Franken was accused of forcibly kissing and groping a Fox TV sports correspondent during a 2006 USO tour. The incident occurred two years before Franken was elected to the U.S. Senate. Moore denied all allegations against him, including one by a

woman who say she was 14 at the time the sexual misconduct took place. Franken apologized to his accuser and said that he would cooperate with any investigation into the matter. Shortly after, other women came out accusing Franken of sexual misconduct.

Trump's reaction to Moore and Franken was nothing short of politics and set off ire across the nation. Trump took to twitter and slammed Democrat Franken; while his reaction to fellow far-right Republican Moore was almost silent. Trump even refused to support moves by the national Republican Party to cut off money for Moore. Other GOP members were much more critical and called on Moore to step down from the race. A few weeks later, Trump did the unthinkable and endorsed Moore for the Alabama Senate race, even though he is accused of molesting underage girls.

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

Trump's hypocrisy should not go to the wayside and allowed to be unchallenged. If anything, the high profile sex-

ual allegations and Trump's reaction to some of them (Democrats Franken and Weinstein) should be an invitation for investigation into Trump's own alleged sexual misconduct. Remember, Trump was accused of sexual assault by 16 women. He was caught on tape saying of women that he could grab them by the p-word, because he was a star. "You can do anything," he said, referring to groping and kissing women.

"I feel this issue has been 'on hold' all year, but not forgotten," said Trump accuser and People journalist, Natasha Stoyanoff. "It's been simmering on the stove with the lid on, like a pressure cooker. But now the heat's on and it's going to boil and the lid is going to blast off."

Why should his election victory suddenly make Trump immune to an investigation on this very serious matter? No one, including the president of the United States, should be above the law.

There is momentum growing that an investigation should be launched on the sexual allegations against Trump. In the private sector, we would expect any Human Resources Depart-

ment, to look into any matters of sexual misconduct. Other very powerful men, including the late Roger Ailes was forced to resign as Fox News chairman and CEO after sexual assault allegations transpired.

The U.S. Senate had expressed the possibility that should Moore win the Alabama race there might be moves to force him to leave the Senate as an unfit member of the body. Why should the president not be held accountable for his past as others have and the Senate declare Trump unfit also if found guilty? In fact, the highest public official, the president, should be held to the highest standard. In the private sector, it's unlikely that Trump would be hired at any top-level job given the numerous sexual allegations against him. But, just because he won an election, Trump is seemingly absolved of very serious allegations.

Politics must be put aside when it comes to investigating possible sexual misconduct, or any crime for that matter. Democrat Senator Al Franken should face the consequences for his action. If it leads to being removed from the Senate, so be it. If Republican Moore is found guilty and wins the Alabama senate seat, he too should not serve in public office. It doesn't matter if an

elected official is a Democrat or Republican, the ruling majority political party at the time must treat and enforce ethics with blinders on, and remove any unfit public official who is found guilty of criminal misconduct.

No one in the private sector is given not even a short leash and is fired swiftly when found guilty of sexual harassment. The same standard must be upheld in the public sector, including the presidency. Former President Bill Clinton was impeached following his sex scandal and should have resigned. In fairness to the over a dozen women who filed complaints against Trump, an investigation should be initiated, and he too, must face consequences for his actions, if found guilty. In this age, sexual misconduct should not be tolerated, period. Trump's criticism of high profile Democrats accused of sexual misconduct just opened the door to revisit his own past. Perhaps Trump had made critical remarks on Democrats accused of sexual misconduct knowing that his Republican colleagues would not do anything about it, that they would "have his back." But the miscalculation is that he got the public re-thinking, "yeah, just because Trump won an election, why isn't he being investigated for sexual harassment?"

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sakadas to be Honored at Philippine Consulate

The Philippine Consulate General and Filipino American community will hold the 3rd Sakada Day Celebration on December 20, 2017 at the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, 11 a.m.

Hawaii Governor David Y. Ige signed a bill designating December 20, Sakada Day, to recognize and honor the pioneering achievements and courage of the first Filipino sakadas and their contributions to the growth and

development of Hawaii.

Sakadas or their families are encouraged to contact the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu to be included in the roster of living sakadas to be recognized.

Previous living sakadas who were recognized in previous Sakada Day events are welcomed to attend the events.

Fil WWII Vets Invited to Attend Ewa Plain Battlefield Commemoration

Hawaii Filipino World War II veterans are invited to attend the annual Ewa Plain Battlefield Commemoration on Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ewa Plain Battlefield. It is annual observance of the attack on Ewa Mooring Mast Field that was defended by the United States Marines.

The theme this year will be about the historic Ewa Plantation, Fort Barrette and its part in the larger Ewa Plain Battlefield. The ceremony honors those who were killed that day, including Marines, Ewa civilians and the Army and Navy pilots shot down by Ewa Field.

Many residents were Asian

Americans. Many also enlisted in the military after the air attack. Every year, hundreds of people from all over the US attend this event. The commemoration is sponsored by American Veterans Hawaii, the Keepers of the USS Arizona memorial wall.

The actual entrance road is Corregidor St.



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COVER STORY

Celebrate Pasko at FilCom Center and Honolulu Museum of Art

By Edwin Quinabo

During Christmas in the Philippines, Filipinos see everything in magical wonderment, as a child sees the world. Bright colored lights from parol lanterns bounce off dark pavements along alleyways, storefronts, and elegant homes. Church bells echo through small towns, down metro streets, welcoming early morning parishioners to worship in God's home. All the senses are aroused; and the feeling of Christmas joy, palpable.

The *balikbayan*-care boxes filled with canned- and household goods begin arriving early December. Filipinos crowd money wire services to receive remittances from relatives abroad. Even more jubilant, tens of thousands of children are reunited with their fathers, mothers, older brothers, and older sisters who are on vacation break for the holiday season from their overseas contract jobs. Some of these overseas workers haven't been home all year, or longer. Roads are log-jammed for hours and ferries packed as Filipinos journey back to their home provinces with *regalos* in each hand. The labor to get there, is all worth the struggle just to be held in tata and nana's frail arms once again. The child within awakens; it's Christmas time in the Philippines.

Christmas is the most important holiday in the Philippines and the longest-celebrated in the world, beginning as early as September and lasting until the Feast

of Santo Nino on the third Sunday of January. The religious part of Christmas -- Christ's birth -- takes on prime importance there as Filipinos observe nine pre-dawn masses or *Misa de Gallo* (Rooster's Mass) starting on December 16th and ends with midnight mass on Christmas Eve. Christmas in the Philippines combines Catholic, western commercialism, and uniquely native traditions; it is celebrated unlike anywhere in the world.

While the Philippines is thousands of miles away, to enjoy and learn about the rich Philippine customs and traditions of Christmas, each year Hawaii residents are fortunate to have two popular Pasko events. The Filipino Community Center and the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) each holds separate annual events in early- and mid-December.

PASKO SA FILCOM

Once again, the Filipino Community Center is inviting

the public to its 11th Annual Pasko sa FilCom (Christmas at the FilCom) on Sunday, December 3, 2017, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the FilCom Center in Waipahu. This year's theme is *Masaya at Mapayapang Kapaskuhan* (MMK), which means "Joyous and Peaceful Christmas Time." Admission is free.

Pasko sa FilCom event chair Imelda Gasmen said, "The idea of MMK comes from a very popular TV show which lots of Filipinos watch that portrays real life stories of ordinary Filipinos. MMK stands for "Maalaala Mo Kaya" which means 'Do You Remember?' In essence, it (this year's theme) is remembering how Filipinos celebrate Christmas."

Pasko at the FilCom Center will feature music and entertainment, food demonstrations and sampling, children's games and activities, table top Christmas tree contest, parol-making contest, karaoke contest, choral compe-



Fashion show at 2014 Honolulu Museum Pasko celebration

tion and a University of Hawaii College Fair.

The San Nicolas Goodwill Foundation will be preparing *linubian*, or mashed cassava, a popular Filipino desert during Christmas. Other common holiday deserts to be offered are *tupig* and *bibingka*. The Waipahu High School Youth for Safety Club will be offering *sorbetes* or Filipino-style ice cream. The Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii will be providing free coffee.

Children can play pabitin and Pasko bingo, put together by the Leeward Community College KASAMA. The kids can enjoy a meet-and-greet with Mr. and Mrs. Santa.

Parol Contest: In collaboration with the FilCom Center, the Order Knights of Rizal will be holding a Parol Contest. Three winning parols will be selected, first place - \$300; second place - \$200; and third place - \$100. Parols must be homemade, can be of any shape or form, frame made of bamboo or any substitute. The size of parols can be no less than a foot in diameter and no greater than two feet across (excluding tassels), and must be capable of being hung or propped up by a pole that can be carried. The final product must be dropped off by 1 p.m.

on Sunday, the day of the event, at the FilCom Center for judging.

Tabletop Christmas Tree Contest: Three winning tabletop Christmas trees will be selected, first place \$250; second place \$150; and third place \$75. Christmas trees cannot be more than two feet tall, from the base to the top of the tree. The tree can be made with fresh pine or artificial material. Like the parols, tabletop Christmas trees must be submitted by 1 p.m. on the day of the event.

Choral Competition: Pasko season isn't complete without music. In the spirit of Pasko caroling, a popular tradition, there will be a choral competition. Three choirs will receive prizes: first place \$400; second place \$300; and third place \$200. Choirs must consist of 15 to 30 members, sing Christmas carols or medley (in English and/or Filipino), have a conductor, and perform between 5 to 10 minutes.

Karaoke Contest: The first 10 people who sign up on the day of the event will be allowed to participate in the Karaoke Contest. Each contestant must sing only one Christmas song in any language. Prizes will be given for first

(continued on page 5)

A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

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

A popular spot for tourists as well as local people.

Owners want to retire.



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, CELEBRATE...)

place \$200, second place \$150, and third place \$100. The sponsoring organizations for the Karaoke contest are Coro Filipino and the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii.

Music and entertainment coordinators Edith and Roland Pascua, among the founders of Himig at Indak, said there will be Filipino folk dance, hula, line dancing, a theatrical skit, and musical performances. Among those scheduled in the program are Himig at Indak and Knights of Columbus, Jessica Cachero Acosta, Dolores Cabanit, Anna Davide, the Golden Elites, Best Friends Forever, Bulacan Circle of Hawaii, Eddie and Myrna Villegas, Raizza Pulido, Eddie Lactaoen and Family, Linglingay Cultural Dance Troupe, and Gumil Oahu.

UH College Fair at Pasko: Event vice chair and coordinator of the UH College Fair at Pasko, Clement Bautista, said "The UH College Fair is an annual fair of UH programs and schools who are interested in connecting with the Filipino community. Representations from several UH campuses (not just UH-Manoa) will be on hand to answer questions. Any high school seniors thinking about post-secondary education, their parents, and any other students interested in the UH campuses should attend.

"UH is doing this because the Filipino community is underrepresented in many sectors of higher education (not all, but many) and in the workplace. The more Filipinos are exposed and take advantage of various educational opportunities, the more we will see Filipinos represented in all sectors of the economy. We coordinate with the FilCom during their Pasko because it is the largest attended event for the Filipino (and others) community held at FilCom," said Bautista. The UH College Fair at Pasko is coordinated by the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, formerly known as Operation Manong.

The sponsors of Pasko sa FilCom are Philippine Airlines - donated one R/T to Manila to be given away at the Pasko event; Richard Dahl and Re-



Parol Contest 2016 Winners

nato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation - Silver Sponsors;

AARP Hawaii, Himig at Indak, Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii, TFC, Salad Master and Coro Filipino - Bronze Sponsors; Melody Calisay, Magnolia Ice Cream & Treats, and Seafood City will be donating items for prizes and giveaways.

FAUW'S PASKO! AT THE HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART (HoMA)

The other major Pasko event on Oahu is Pasko! at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA), presented by the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) Hawaii. This popular annual event, known as *Pasko! at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA)*, will be on Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as part of BOH's Family Sunday. Admission is free and open to the public.

FAUW Hawaii event chair Bey Lontoc, said "Pasko to me is the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is an occasion for family gatherings, and a celebratory tradition with rich cultural heritage that's very unique to Filipinos. Celebrating Pasko is our way of declaring how we value our culture of hospitality through food and customs, and most importantly -- love for the family!" She adds that these Pasko events serve as "the bridge that connects us from our country, our homeland. It (celebrating Pasko) becomes a significant tradition that effectively helps in perpetuating our rich Filipino heritage and tradition to the next generation."

This year's FAUW Pasko! at HoMA commemorates its 30th year or Pearl anniversary;

appropriately the 2017 theme is "Pasko, Parol at Perlas." There will be parol-making demonstrations. Bamboo kits for the parol frames will be available to all who wish to make their own traditional parol. Parols will also be on display, along with Christmas trees decorated with indigenous Filipino materials, and a Noche Buena table. There will also be demonstrations on how to cut-out wrappers for traditional Filipino sweets such as *pastillas*, *yema* and *pulvoron*.

Entertainment will start at 10:00 a.m. and will feature dance numbers from the Bulacan Circle & Associates, guitarist Buddy Gendrano and other local talents.

The HoMA is the only museum outside of the Philippines to have a gallery dedicated to Philippine art. On this day, tours of the Philippine Gallery led by trained docents will start by 11:00 a.m. and will repeat every half an hour.

Lauren May, Program Director at HoMA summarizes the activities — "Let's celebrate The Most Wonderful Time of the Year at Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday at the Honolulu Museum of Art. Kids will get into the holiday spirit by decorating star shaped cookies, creating wreaths from felt, and making Parols to celebrate Pasko! Learn about the Filipino holiday, Pasko, and explore the Arts of the Philippines on a docent-led tour. Families can explore the museum galleries, enjoy live entertainment, and learn about Filipino culture."

The Honolulu Museum of Art is located at 900 Beretania Street. Pasko at HoMA is made

"It is important to recreate these Filipino traditions during Christmas, especially for Hawaii's large Filipino community. These traditions define us—and it is important to pass it on, not only to Filipinos, but to share it with the rest of Hawaii's diverse community. These traditions, at its core, reminds us of the importance of family, of sharing and to pause in the midst of our busy lives to listen to a beautiful carol or see the excitement on children's eyes as they create their own parol. This is the time to remind ourselves to let go of consumerism, that the most memorable experience doesn't cost much."

— ROSE CRUZ CHURMA



The San Nicolas Goodwill Foundation's *linubian*

possible as part of BOH's Family Sundays.

FAUW, a non-profit, promotes and strengthens Filipino identity in Hawaii through initiatives in culture, the arts, and education.

"On its 30th anniversary, FAUW remains committed to its mission and vision of promoting Filipino culture in the State of Hawaii through vari-

ous media and educational tools across generations and ethnicities." Rhoda Yabes Alvarez, FAUW President, 2016, 2017.

Rose Cruz Churma, FAUW member and former President of the FilCom Center, explains the meaning of Pasko. "Literally 'Pasko' means 'Christmas' in English. Pasko

(continued on page 8)

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FILIPINA ATTORNEY DAISY HARTSFIELD

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle wanted to know the experiences of Filipino attorneys here in Hawaii. To get the perspective of a female attorney, we turned to Daisy Lynn Balais Hartsfield (Manzanillo). She currently has a solo practice in family law and criminal defense law.



(L to R) are: Daisy Hartsfield, current HLFA President Rozelle Agag, current Board Directors Kainani Collins-Alvarez, Jessica Domingo and Justice Acoba

HFC: Are you local-born or from the Philippines?

Balais Hartsfield: I was born here in Hawaii but my mother, Alegria Balais Manzanillo, is from Brgy Peralta, in Dingras, Ilocos Norte, and my father, Herman Manzanillo, his family is from Brgy Baldias, also in Dingras, Ilocos Norte. I graduated from Waipahu High School. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from UH-Manoa, a Master's Degree in Social Work (Concentration in Child and Family) from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and a Juris Doctor from the Williams S. Richardson School of Law.

HFC: What led you to a career in law?

Balais Hartsfield: Well, if my dad had the opportunity to go to college, he wanted to

study law and become an attorney. When he left the Army, he had a young family to support and became an upholsterer instead. When I decided, in my early 20s, that I no longer wanted to pursue becoming a pediatrician, he suggested that I consider becoming a lawyer. I finally applied to law school after my classmate and I promised each other that we would apply to law school a year after graduating with our MSW degrees. As it turned out, I was the only one that followed through on that promise.

HFC: What did you do before?

Balais Hartsfield: Before I became an attorney, I was a social worker. I started my social work career counseling the acutely mentally ill, then

did child abuse and neglect investigations, and finally was a juvenile probation officer.

HFC: What do you feel is the experience of Filipino lawyers?

Balais Hartsfield: When I first became an attorney, there were only a handful of Filipino attorneys that I would regularly see at court. As the years have passed, I see more Filipino attorneys in the courtroom, representing both sides of cases, and even presiding over cases. I hope it is not only my experience, but I have found that Filipino attorneys tend to reach out and support one another. We are proud of one another's accomplishments.

The late Justice Richardson, Retired Justice Acoba and Judge William Domingo took the time to advocate for and encourage Filipino attorneys to become more active in the legal community. As a result, being a Filipino attorney nowadays does not seem as

uncommon or unexpected as it used to be. I do not know if being Filipino makes being a lawyer more challenging, but I do know that what keeps me going in this profession is the hard work ethic that my parents instilled in me. Working hard and doing your best is strongly valued by most Filipinos. My former supervisors, Retired Judges Karl Sakamoto and Steven Alm, are not Filipino but they shared the same ethic. Whenever I am overwhelmed or very stressed out, I sometimes hear the words of wisdom and advice they shared with me and it helps me persevere and keep at it.

HFC: What about for Filipino female lawyers?

Balais Hartsfield: For me, being a Filipino female lawyer, the struggle has been balancing work with family responsibilities, another value that is important to Filipinos. My parents, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary this past May, are not in the best of health so helping to care for them has taken time away from my practice. I'm fortunate my sisters, Desna and Dahlia Manzanillo, share the caregiving duties with me. I also have two children. My eldest, Caleb Hartsfield, just moved to Los Angeles, CA, and designs cartoons for Civil Beat. My youngest, Ashley Hartsfield, is a Freshman in high school. She's involved in Air Riflery, Chorus, and is a student in the Early College Program. My husband, Brian Hartsfield, is a teacher who has been very supportive of my career choices. Without the support of all my family members, I would not have achieved all that I have. I am a mother, wife, daughter, and sister, before an attorney.

HFC: Filipinos tend to work as solos rather than at firms. What do you feel are the advantages or disadvantages or qualities of such a practice? Have you experienced other law practice settings? What do you prefer?

Balais Hartsfield: I've been very fortunate in that I had opportunities to build a diverse legal background. I was a law clerk, Deputy Public Defender, Deputy Attorney General, Supervisor of the Hawaii Drug Court Program, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, a civil attorney, and now, a solo practitioner. Frankly, each place I worked at, was the right place for me at that point in my career and life. In the law offices I worked at, I was either the only or one of a handful of Filipino attorneys that worked in the office. The advantage to working in a law office with other attorneys is the camaraderie you build with your co-workers - they become your second family. The disadvantages are the amount of time you spend away from home and the office politics. The advantages of being a solo practitioner is that you are your own boss, you decide your schedule, you pick and choose the cases to represent, and you can take all the credit for the work done. The disadvantages are that you have more responsibilities, work just as much or maybe more than at a law firm, and a steady paycheck cannot be relied on.

HFC: Anything else you'd like to say?

Balais Hartsfield: I am very aware that I did not get to where I am without the help from others which is why I believe that it is really important to give back and help others. I have volunteered my time over the years serving as a Director with the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, Legal Counsel for the Oahu Filipino Community Council and Dingrenios of Hawaii, and as a coach for Waipahu High School's Mock Trial Team. The future for Filipino leaders in Hawaii is very promising and I look forward to seeing how what we do now will shape the legal community in the coming years. It would be great to follow California's lead and have a Chief Justice of Filipino descent here in Hawaii.

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Humanitarian Reinstatement of Dead Petitioner's Petition – Is It a Farce?

A “farce” is a broad satire or comedy, though now it’s used to describe something that is supposed to be serious but has turned ridiculous.” <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/farce>

What are examples of a farce? (1) Honolulu rail project, (2) Russians decided the outcome of the last national election by using social media, (3) USCIS will likely grant humanitarian reinstatement of a dead petitioner’s petition, (4) all of the above, (5) none of the above.

Upon the death of an immigration petitioner, the approval of the petition is revoked as of the date of the approval. 8 CFR 205.1(a)(3). In other words, the petition dies with the petitioner.

However, there is an exception known as “humanitarian reinstatement” or “humanitarian revalidation”. The petition is not deemed revoked if “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) determines, as a matter of discretion exercised for humanitarian reasons in light of the facts of a particular case,

that it is inappropriate to revoke the approval of the petition. USCIS may make this determination only if the principal beneficiary of the visa petition asks for reinstatement of the approval of the petition and establishes that a person related to the principal beneficiary in one of the ways described in section 213A(f)(5)(B) of the Act is willing and able to file an affidavit of support under 8 CFR Part 213a as a substitute sponsor.” 8 CFR 205.1(a)(3)(i)(C)(2).

In the good old days, it was relatively easy to obtain humanitarian reinstatement. In fact we had a 100% success rate. We wrote an article “TEN COMMANDMENTS ON HOW TO RESURRECT A DEAD PETITIONER’S PETITION”. See <https://immigrationservicesusablog.wordpress.com/immigration-guide/>

All that a beneficiary needed to do was write a letter to the USCIS office that originally approved the petition stating (a) the name of the dead petitioner and beneficiary, (b) the receipt number of the petition, (c) the dead petitioner’s alien number, (d) whether there is another pending petition for the beneficiary, (e) the beneficiary’s parents, siblings, spouse, and children, with their addresses and whether they were living or dead, and (f) the

reasons why a favorable exercise of discretion was warranted. The beneficiary had to submit supporting documents, including (1) a copy of the petitioner’s death certificate, (2) a copy of the a notice of approval of the petition, (3) the beneficiary’s birth certificate, and (4) an affidavit of support (Form I-864) executed by a qualified substitute sponsor. See <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/humanitarian-reinstatement>

Consular officials who were presented with a humanitarian request were quite liberal in recommending humanitarian reinstatement. See 9 FAM 504.2-8(C)(4).

FACTORS REQUIRED FOR FAVORABLE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION

But then the good old days turned to bad. Anti-immigration elements in the USCIS imposed specific requirements that must be complied with in order to warrant a favorable exercise of discretion. These are:

- (1) Disruption of an established family unit.
- (2) Hardship to United States citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- (3) Beneficiary is elderly or in poor health.
- (4) Beneficiary has lengthy residence in the United States.

(5) Beneficiary has no home to go to.

(6) Undue delay by USCIS or Consular Officer in processing petition and/or visa.

(7) Beneficiary has strong family ties in the United States.

How can a beneficiary meet all these 7 factors?

Disruption of family unit. USCIS will probably blame the dead petitioner for disrupting the family unit. It might say that the petitioner disrupted the established family unit when he emigrated to the United States. The beneficiary’s coming to America cannot “undisrupt” the family unit that was disrupted by the petitioner and who by the way is already dead.

Hardship to family in U.S. USCIS will ask how the beneficiary’s failure to immigrate can cause hardship to a family member in the U.S. The state-side family member is not suffering any present hardship, and if there is any suffering it was not caused by nor can it be cured by the immigration of the beneficiary.

Beneficiary is elderly or in poor health. What is “elderly”? “Being past middle age,” says Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. Most beneficiaries are not elderly. Most beneficiaries are not

in poor health, otherwise they will not be able to come to the United States since they could not pass the medical examination.

Lengthy residence in U.S. Nearly all beneficiaries have never resided in the United States.

Beneficiary has no home to go to. All beneficiaries, especially in the Philippines, have a home to go to. They have amor propio (self-respect). What do you think they are – like the homeless in Paradise?

Undue delay by USCIS or consular officer. USCIS will find no evidence of “undue delay” by government officials. It might say that the lengthy processing of the visa petition is normal.

Beneficiary has strong family ties in the U.S. USCIS will likely find that the beneficiary has stronger family ties in the Philippines.

Where did USCIS get these factors that are impossible to meet? What is the law upon which these factors were based? Obviously these factors were taken from certain court decisions specifying what a person being deported must establish to obtain a favorable exercise of discretion. Thus,

(continued on page 12)

MAINLAND NEWS

Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Bill Passes U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act, a bill to ensure that severely disabled veterans are able to receive adult day health care services at no cost to them, passed the U.S. Senate unanimously. introduced by Senators Mazie Hirono and Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), the bill defines the program as a reimbursable treatment option through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“VA coverage of adult day

health care allows Hawaii veterans and their families to afford comprehensive services to maintain their quality of life and care for their service-connected conditions,” said Senator Hirono. “By passing the State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act, the Senate affirmed the importance of expanding access to this care for veterans in Hawaii and across the country.”

The Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo is one of a few state veterans homes across the country that offers adult day health care services,

which allow veterans in need of nursing home care to live in their own homes while receiving comprehensive medical, nursing, and personal care services.

“We’d like to thank Senator Hirono for her steadfast efforts in making this legislation a reality” said David R. Pettijohn, Administrator of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, Hawaii. “The Okutsu State Veterans Home is evaluating the financial feasibility of continuing this service. Enactment of this legislation, and its financial impact, will need to be assessed to determine if sufficient to sustain this service going forward.”

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By Emil Guillermo

When America's Sexual Reckoning Sink Morning TV Anchors

The virtue of the morning network TV news shows is that at a glance we can be assured the world has survived the night and is exactly as it was during our last waking hours.

These last few weeks, we've found out it's not.

Ask the Today Show's Matt Lauer. Or CBS's Charlie Rose.

They weren't there to tell us the world has changed. But their absence sure did when the newsreaders became the news.

The litany of sinners actually started with Fox's Roger Ailes and Bill O'Reilly. And of course, moviedom's Harvey Weinstein.

If you're a piggish male, watch out.

The new sexual revolution is on.

If you haven't noticed, we are in a strange time sexually where a Victorian-type reckoning has come upon us, redefining the lines of civil flirtation in the age of digital promiscuity. Especially in the workplace.

And as it turns out, a lot of it is generational.

YouGov and The Economist did a survey of 1,000 Americans Nov. 4, and asked: "Would you consider it sexual harassment if a man, who was not a romantic partner did the following..."

The choices were limited to "looking at breasts," "placing a hand on the lower back," and "commenting on attractiveness."

Of course, females over males generally thought it was always or usually inappropriate. But the surprising difference was that younger males, 18-30, were always more prudish and respectful than those horn dog males aged 64 and up (not my demo).

And that was the key line of demarcation that emerged, which, of course, coincides with most of the names dragged out since all the allegations of harassment began. Men in their 60s and up. Most notably, I'd say Donald Trump would be at the top of the list. He's hidden behind the presidency, but his failure to condemn Alabama GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore, while speaking out against Democratic Sen. Al Franken, is thick, thick hypocrisy.

Trump still has more than a dozen women at the ready with accusations against him, the self-described "pussy grabber."

At a time when we need a unifying moral leader to acknowledge this is a new era for women, civil rights, and justice in America, we have exactly the wrong person in office.

Not only do we have someone intent on rolling back progress made over the last 50 years, we have an unrepentant

perp, who likes it the way it used to be.

It defines a new kind of generation gap.

Sexual harassment wasn't even a thing until the late 1970s, that only grew as more women began working. The EEOC didn't have a definition for it until 1980.

Between 1980 and 1985, The Economist reports there were just 16 cases of sexual harassment. It wasn't until 1986, when the Supreme Court ruled that the 1964 Civil Rights Act applied and made companies liable for harassment, that the complaints grew. In the last 30 years, there have been 400,000 complaints against companies.

And there would be even more. The EEOC estimated in 2016 that 25 to 85 percent of women faced harassment at some point in their working lives.

All we needed were more empowered workers to come forward and say "me too."

My "Me Too" Moment

Society is finally waking up, as more people come forward every day. But one thing that studies have shown is that non-white women are no more at risk than whites--no matter how many Asian fetish cycles we've been through in pop culture.

Race is not so much a factor it turns out. Neither is sexual preference. The Terry Crews and Kevin Spacey incidents show that gay or straight, harassment is a thing. The sociobiology in all this is strong. Genes want to replicate, or at least exert their will.

Still, it's not really about sex. Just power. And it happens even when women are in control as well.

In my experience coming up in the media business from the '70s, I was often the only Filipino American in the room, and I've worked everywhere in the country. Boston, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, Reno, Sacramento, Washington D.C., San

(continued on page 12)

COVER STORY (from page 5, CELEBRATE....)

is celebrated beginning in September (officially the start of the 'her' months) when malls and public spaces get a makeover and are decorated with Christmas ornaments. In the Philippines, the most ubiquitous (Christmas decoration) is the parol or star lantern. Usually it is made of bamboo frame and covered with various covers — including colored capiz shells. Parols are hung outside windows, eaves, light poles and trees."

Keeping Tradition Alive

On carrying on the Pasko tradition, Churma said, "It is important to recreate these Fil-

ipino traditions during Christmas, especially for Hawaii's large Filipino community. These traditions define us—and it is important to pass it on, not only to Filipinos, but to share it with the rest of Hawaii's diverse community. These traditions, at its core, reminds us of the importance of family, of sharing and to pause in the midst of our busy lives to listen to a beautiful carol or see the excitement on children's eyes as they create their own parol. This is the time to remind ourselves to let go of consumerism, that the most memorable experience doesn't cost much."

Carolyn Hildebrand said, "When we say, 'I am proud to be a Filipino!' What does that really mean especially if you live in Hawaii? Old Filipino Christmas traditions offer clues on the sources of our pride. Filipino Christmas traditions, for Catholics and non-Catholics, are about bonding together around home cooking, eating, drinking, singing, storytelling and other fun but simple activities. Our less-materialistic Filipino Christmas traditions remind us also of the shared values that we have with various ethnic groups' traditions and culture."

Gasmen said, "Hawaii has a very diverse ethnic make-up and sharing how we celebrate Christmas can add to the cultural knowledge of the rest of the community; but for Filipinos, it is to relive and remember Pasko in our motherland."

Noche Buena

Christmas Eve to many

Filipino families is the most anticipated event of the entire season. It is a marathon day when families attend the midnight mass together, then gather for the *Noche Buena*, or midnight feast. It winds up being an all-night celebration that continues well into Christmas day. During these wee hours, family, friends, and neighbors stop by, partake in some of the festive dishes and desserts that usually include a *lechon* (roasted pig) and various rice cakes. Also during this time, it's common for carolers to make their last rounds around the neighborhood.

"In our family, we spend Christmas in Zambales and what I remember the most was making *halaya* for Christmas. *Halaya* is the dessert made from ube and condensed milk. For the longest time, that was my chore, to stir the mixture clockwise over a low fire for hours. The *halaya* was eaten with the *leche flan* and *macapuno*. I remember the desserts

well because that didn't change—but the main course did. Some years it was *lechon*—and one year, it was my pet pig Rosie that was roasted (since then I dread eating *lechon*). Other years, we'd have *arroz caldo*, *embutido* and that dish where the steamed fish was drenched in mayonnaise," said Churma.

Hildebrand said, "Our Honolulu Christmas tradition is having a Christmas tree that is fresh (not artificial). Our Baguio tradition included hanging parols that we made ourselves and caroling around the neighborhood for many nights before Christmas eve. Santa Claus was not part of our tradition nor was American-style gift-giving."

The Pasko tradition is alive and well in our community. Hawaii families can help keep this wonderful tradition strong and enjoy both Pasko sa FilCom and Pasko! at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA).

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BOOK REVIEW

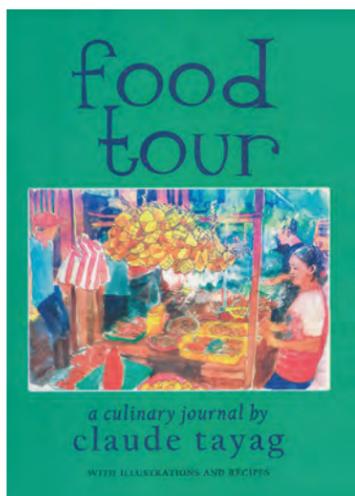
FOOD TOUR, A CULINARY JOURNAL

By Rose Churma

This is Claude Tayag's first book, a compilation of his columns in the Philippine Star, and covers his impressions of his food trips in the Philippines and abroad. Aside from the pioneering work of the late Doreen Fernandez and Gilda Cordero Fernando, most of the materials in the Philippines' food history lies hidden in cookbooks. It is only lately that Filipino food is going beyond just a compilation of recipes into discussions in how national identity can be traced in how we prepare and share food. Food and its preparation has now become a course in some universities, and is the subject of Facebook posts, online blogs and Instagram photos.

What makes this book unusual is that the author is not only a foodie and great chef, but also an artist and writer. Claude Tayag is an accomplished painter, sculptor, furniture designer, writer, entrepreneur and chef. He

FOOD TOUR, A Culinary Journal
by Claude Tayag, with Illustrations
and recipes, published by
Anvil Publishing, Inc., Pasig City,
2006, 260p. softcover. \$25



considers himself a self-taught artist who took architecture and economics courses at UP Diliman. His introduction to culinary arts happened by accident in 1979 when he went backpacking in Europe on a shoestring budget. This forced him to find the cheapest ingredients at wet markets and replicate Filipino food that he missed and realized he can wield a paintbrush as easily as cooking implements. His first coming-out



Back cover illustration shows a young woman selling the famous Iloco empanada with the Paoay Church in the background. This deep fried four encrusted empanada is filled with mung bean sprouts or grated green papaya, longganisa, whole egg, and doused with vinegar sawsawan when eaten.

as chef was in 1988 for Larry Cruz's Ang Hang Restaurant, followed by a stint at the Manila Hotel in 1993 where he highlighted his interpretations of Pampango cuisine. At the prodding of friends, he finally opened his home Bale Datung in Angeles City to folks who want to try the results of his cooking.

One of the articles in this anthology is "Tanging Nyaman", his description of his experiences at celebrating Pasko in Sta Rita,

Pampanga, where he describes the continuing food traditions of the place. He describes how he and his friends dressed in simple barrio clothes (baro't saya for the women and kamisa tsina for the men) to partake in a typical Christmas meal. He described their arrival and the flurry of activities that greeted them—"... guitars were being strummed, native Christmas carols were being sung" and cups of hot tsokolate made with carabao's milk being

passed around, with bibingka and puto bumbong cooked "their sweet aromas wafting in the air, suman were being wrapped in banana leaves by some local elders; ube jam was being stirred in a large vat by a katutubo, and cauldrons of food were being simmered in the makeshift kitchen."

He describes the traditional Pampango noche buena fare of "chicken, pork or beef and assorted vegetables slow cooked for several hours over charcoal and made more flavorful with the addition of ham hocks" with saging na saba which adds a sweet taste. Among the other dishes were pork asado, sticky rice with chicken, tamales and bangus ceviche, which were constantly replenished. He also describes the Pampango empanada called panera that is filled with green papaya.

In addition to the author's reflections on food as he travels through the Philippine archipelago and abroad, the book also contains recipes and recommendations on where to eat. The book is also filled with his pen and ink illustrations.

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Jo Koy at Blaisdell

By Renelaine Bontol-Pfister

Jo Koy has been a stand-up comedian for over twenty years, but I hadn't heard of him until early this year. Everyone knows him by now.

I first heard of him when my friend tagged me on Facebook to a clip of one of his shows. I enjoyed it, so I watched his full show on Netflix. Then another friend loaned me two DVDs of Jo Koy's shows. By then I had become a big fan, and I was excited when I heard he was coming to Hawaii this November. My friends and I scrambled to get tickets.

I wasn't the only one. Koy kept selling out tickets, so he kept adding more shows until he sold out 11 shows at Blaisdell Concert Hall. He surpassed ticket sales for Mariah

Carey, which says a lot.

Koy is half white, half Filipino, and was raised by his Filipino mother after his parents divorced. A lot of his material is inspired by his mother, and it's hilarious. I love when he imitates his mother. "Who told you, you were punny, Josep?"

Even my 10-year-old nephew walks around saying Koy's lines. "Elebate the peet! Elebate!"

I enjoy Koy's material because a lot of it involves Filipino culture, and I can relate to it. For example, he's talked about his mom using Vicks Vapor rub as a cure-all; his mom once swiped his eyes with them. I remember my own grandfather stuffing his nose with Vicks and saying it cured his cold.

But he doesn't just appeal



to us Filipinos. After all, he's entertained people from all over the world. He has two TV specials on Comedy Central: *Don't Make Him Angry* and *Lights Out*, and on Netflix: *Live from Seattle*. He's made TV appearances on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, and *Chelsea Lately*.

Koy is a good comedian because he is a good performer. His facial expressions, his gestures, the voices he copies, his dance moves (he's

a good dancer!)...he utilizes them to comic effect. And he's resourceful: he uses the few things available on stage to help his routine: he pretends the microphone cord is dental floss and the stool as a toilet seat.

For his show in Hawaii, Koy delivered jokes about Hawaii, which I think is brilliant. He talked about "slippas" and local food and the different Asian ethnicities. It engaged the audience, made us feel connected to him. His show was supposed to last an

hour, but he went over it. My other friends who went to his other shows said he went up to almost two hours. Time flew by as we laughed non-stop.

After the show, my friends and I are standing near our cars, talking about *tabo* (in Visayan, "kabo").

They say that humor is the most difficult form of entertainment, but Koy makes it look easy, natural. Like I'm at home in Cebu City, with my uncles cracking jokes that make my stomach hurt from laughing so hard.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Annie Custodio Lugmao Passes Away

Annie Custodio Lugmao recently passed away in Waipahu at the age of 93. She was born July 28, 1924 in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. Lugmao arrived in Hawaii with her family in 1969. She graduated from Rosary College in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the National Teachers College in Manila, Philippines. She was an educator and longtime employee of then GTE Hawaiian Tel. Lugmao was an industrious woman and active in old age helping others through her generosity. She was devoted to her fam-



Annie Custodio Lugmao

ily, especially to her grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by daughter Rosalie Lugmao Trinidad (Gener), daughter Sonia Lugmao Aranza (Danny), sons Edmer and Eric Lugmao, grandchildren Rozelle, Brandon, Nicky,

Aaron, PJ, Alyssa, AJ, Destan'e, sister Frances Ramirez Cadoy, nephews, nieces and many relatives in Hawaii and in the Philippines. She will reunite in heaven with her beloved husband.

Wake Service is on Friday, December 8 at Mililani Mortuary Mauka Chapel with visitation at 5:30pm and services at 6:30pm. Dinner and fellowship to follow. Second Day Service is on Saturday, December 9 at the Resurrection of the Lord Catholic Church in Waipio with visitation at 9 am and mass at 10 am. Burial at 11:30 am at the Valley of the Temples. Lunch and fellowship to follow.

NEWS FEATURE

FILIPINO YOUTHS ATTEND MUSIC CONVENTION

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq

At the 75th anniversary of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, fifty talented very young Filipinos lifted up their voices to the Lord, singing “Total Praise” on Veterans’ Day at Hawaii Baptist Academy. The teens are from an array of church youth groups around Oahu, (Nuuanu Baptist, Hawaii Christian Baptist, Mililani Fil-Am Baptist, Olivet Baptist, and Word of Truth) who were brought together a week before for the first practice at Nuuanu Baptist Church. Under the enthusiastic direction of Pastor Michael Abagon of Hawaii Fil-Am Baptist, they sang the song perfectly by the end of the evening.



“Set Apart” camp

Pastor Bong, as Michael Abagon is affectionately known, has led Youth Project summer performing arts camps since 2014. This year’s theme “Set Apart” follows “Open Up the Heavens”, “United,” and “Unashamed.” The son of a physician from the Philippines, Pastor Bong’s choices in music tap into the issues faced by this age group. Popularity woes and traps,

peer pressure, feelings of not being wanted, social interactions, and others, are not the traditional gospel music usually sung in Baptist church services. The camps’ songs and dramas teach teens to look heavenwards in these tumultuous years and make a decision for God.

Each summer the music camps run one week. After the intense one-week musical in-

This year’s “Set Apart” featured a rap on the command to see others as Jesus, the Lord of reconciliation, sees us.

*When I look into the face of my enemy, I see my brother, I see my brother.
When I look into the face of my enemy, I see my brother, I see my brother.
Who’s my enemy really, is it even you, or is it the sin in us
that got our defenses up?*

*This fight to be right, oh man, it’s killing us, but when we dig in His Word,
it throws that mirror up.*

*This back and forth, it leads us to divide, that division leads to pain,
the pain leads to our divide.*

*We must ask ourselves is this worth it? All this fussing ain’t worth it.
Animosity it don’t serve us. Let’s get it all on the surface.*

*I’ve never even been in a day your shoes. You ain’t been on my floor.
You ain’t seen it from my view.*

*I must admit it man, we got a lot more to uncover,
so I’m letting go of self and holding onto brothers.*

struction, the group spends the next two to three months on tour, singing praise songs for the worship portions of Sunday services at host churches around the island. Besides learning music, the young Filipinos get to meet others they normally wouldn’t see in school or church. Ranging in age and geographic residence, this year’s youth come from Kalakaua, Dole, Iliahi, Leilehua, Mililani, Waipahu, Kapalama, UH Manoa, Wheeler, McKinley.

Youth Project is an outgrowth of Faith McFatrige’s children’s music camps from over a decade ago, to cultivate

the talents God gave to worship HIm. Many of the little ones then are now the teens who are in Pastor Bong’s camps. Youth Project received invitations to perform their music evangelism in the Philippines in the summer of 2018. The group will begin preparations for the trip in a “catalytic event” the week of December 26-30, 2017, followed by weekly discipleship and rehearsals to enrich their walk and enlarge their reach to students in the Philippines. Masters Ministries is the 501(c)(3) for collecting donations to send these teens to share their worship talents in the Philippines.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii’s Economy Stable in Next Few Years

Hawaii’s overall economic condition will remain stable into the next few years and economic growth will be steady, around 1.5 percent, according to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) in its fourth quarter 2017 Statistical and Economic Report.

During the first 10 months of 2017, the tourism industry has been performing better than expected. Visitor arrivals increased 4.9 percent and visitor spending increased 7.1 percent during the first nine months this year. According to the daily passenger data published by DBEDT, October’s passenger count increased 4.2 percent, which indicates the October visitor count will be an increase. For the first 20 days of November, passenger count increased 5.7 percent. In terms of visitor arrivals, it is on track towards another record level of visitors this year.

“We are happy to learn that

scheduled air seats, the supply side of the tourism industry, will increase by 8.5 percent during the first three quarters of 2018,” said DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria. “Based on the current trend, there is the potential that we may be welcoming more than 9.5 million visitors in 2018.”

“It is a positive sign that direct flights to the neighbor islands during the next three quarters is expected to increase by more than 20 percent,” explained State Economist Dr. Eugene Tian. “That will help to ease the inter-island flight shortage due to Island Air ceasing operations on November 10.”

The labor market condition in Hawaii has been one of the best in the nation in the last few years. In October 2017, unemployment rate registered a record low rate of 2.2 percent, seasonally adjusted rate, and was the lowest rate in the nation for October. Year-to-date, Hawaii’s unemployment rate ranked the third lowest in terms of seasonally adjusted rate and

ranked the lowest in terms of not seasonally adjusted rate.

Through October, the state gained 7,800 additional payroll jobs as compared with the same period last year. The increase in jobs mostly occurred in tourism-related industries. Retail trade and food services each added 2,500 jobs during the first 10 months, and accommodations added 1,100 hotel jobs, however, there are a few industries which lost jobs. Wholesale trade lost 600 jobs, financial activities and government sectors each lost 500 jobs, manufacturing and construction each lost 400 jobs during the first 10 months of the year.

“The overall economic condition is good. We have one of the best labor markets in the nation, tourism is performing well, our real estate market continues to be strong, and more building permits are being issued,” said State Economist Dr. Eugene Tian. “The challenge is that not all the industries are performing well, some industries continue to lose jobs.”

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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.

MAINLAND NEWS

Rep. Gabbard Holds Telephone Townhall To Discuss Immigration Issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard held a "telephone townhall" that drew nearly 4,000 participants. Rep. Gabbard, local and national guests discussed immigration issues and DACA that President Donald Trump

recently ended. Rep. Gabbard said "The majority of Americans can trace their history through their relatives and ancestors who, against all odds and great difficulties, found their way to and made a home here in the U.S. But while our family histories remind

us of how far we have come, the heartbreak and suffering faced by millions of families across the country due to our broken immigration system demonstrates the need for real reforms. Today, the lives of hundreds of thousands of our neighbors and friends are on hold as they wait for U.S.

leaders to take action on DACA. Congress must take action to pass legislation that will provide a permanent solution for DACA recipients, who are fearful they will be targeted and deported from the only home they've ever known."

Guests of the telephone townhall included: Mateo Caballero, Legal Director of

ACLU Hawai'i and a member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Coalition; Clare Hanusz, a Hawai'i immigration attorney and a member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Coalition and the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; and Shiu-Ming Cheer, Senior Staff Attorney & Field Coordinator at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC).

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 8, **WHEN AMERICA'S....**)

Francisco, Honolulu. The men were bad managers. But many times women were the worst.

Was it harassment when at one job, a female manager, my immediate superior, commented on the size of my feet? And not because she wanted to assure I had comfortable shoes for work, but rather because one appendage is an informal indicator for more intimate one and, well, now everyone is looking at my feet and more.

It came up in those open circle meetings, where we all sat legs crossed, feet dangling under notes and papers, and then the discussion turns from story topics to one's shoe size. More than once.

Harassment?

Imagine a male exec talking to a female about the size of her bra cup.

I didn't know how to react.

In another instance, a male superior, a known bully,

grabbed me by the lapels.

Only in the movies, right? In real life, the boss crossed the line. But it wasn't about sex. Just power.

Situations also came up in the field. As a reporter, I would talk to important officials of public and private institutions. During one interview, I asked a pointed question and the person interviewed didn't appreciate it. He grabbed me by the neck as if the physical threat

would keep me from reporting the truth. He was just exerting his will, trying to overpower me.

It didn't work. I did my report, which was negative against the person. But I never spoke out about how I got my story, or of any of these situations that happened to me.

You want to work again, right? You don't want to be branded a troublemaker, right? You don't want to be blackballed, do you?

I was caught in a different era, when I was happy to be in the room. But I was focused on race, not about sex or power. Was I wronged? Yes. But would anyone listen to me? In the end, my response was typically Asian American. I did not rock the boat.

But I was ready if something ever happened again. It didn't.

In retrospect, I wish I had spoken out and challenged the power. It may have helped others following the same path.

I wish I had the courage of the people coming forward today.

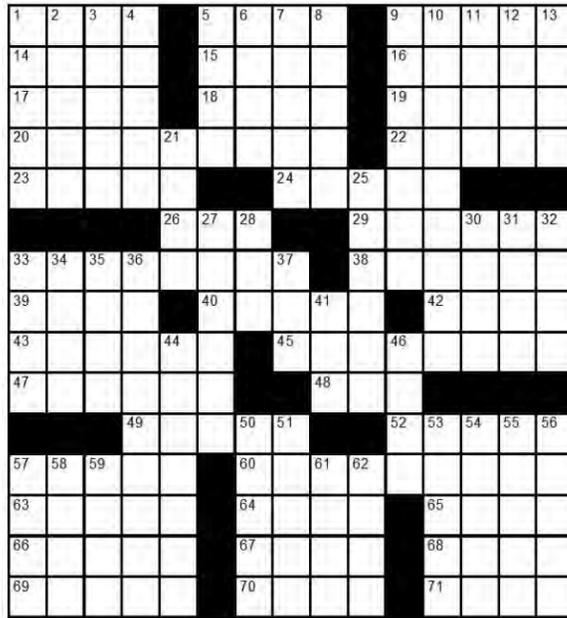
It may have hastened this moment of progress and change that is clearly upon us, where we now realize that men and women equally must be treated with respect in the workplace.

EMIL GUILLERMO *Emil Guillermo is a journalist and commentator. He was an editorial board member for the Honolulu Advertiser and a columnist for the Star-Bulletin. You may contact him at emil@amok.com*

CROSSWORD by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

- 1. Trading place
- 5. Arcing shots (tennis)
- 9. Monastery head
- 14. Biology lab supply
- 15. Length x width, for a rectangle
- 16. Go on and on
- 17. Harassed
- 18. Forbidden: Var.
- 19. Outlook
- 20. Sporting contest involving swimming, running and cycling
- 22. Fluid product of inflammation
- 23. Third person singular present form of 'say' (archaic)
- 24. Fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh
- 26. Branch
- 29. Wreckage
- 33. Something that is unwanted and unneeded
- 38. Off the mark
- 39. Bridge toll unit
- 40. Nigerian monetary unit
- 42. Small buffalo
- 43. Engaged in boisterous, drunken merrymaking
- 45. Observing
- 47. Forever, poetically
- 48. Stake
- 49. Hung around
- 52. Cloudless
- 57. Gadget
- 60. Gift that should be accepted uncritically
- 63. Foreign head of state



- 64. Big laugh
- 65. Killer whale
- 66. Curses
- 67. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants
- 68. Source of nourishment
- 69. Cuff
- 70. Angry, with "off"
- 71. Affectedly creative

DOWN

- 1. Exchanges
- 2. Ancient assembly area
- 3. Pie cuts, essentially
- 4. Pick up the tab for
- 5. Homebuilder's strip
- 6. Face-to-face exam
- 7. Jazz genre
- 8. Hot spot
- 9. Consultant
- 10. Miscellaneous curios
- 11. Pretentious or silly talk or writing
- 12. Able to see right through
- 13. Binge
- 21. Become friendlier
- 25. Conceive
- 27. French verse form of 10 or 13 lines running on two rhymes
- 28. Bygone bird
- 30. Indian queen
- 31. Knowing, as a secret
- 32. Alone
- 33. Bell the cat
- 34. Departure
- 35. Balm ingredient
- 36. Damage or loss
- 37. Cacophony
- 41. Burgle
- 44. Back
- 46. Allergic reaction
- 50. "Snowy" bird
- 51. Electron tube
- 53. Washing sponge or strainer
- 54. Boner
- 55. English race place
- 56. Gear up
- 57. Wanders aimlessly
- 58. Mosque V.I.P.
- 59. 18-wheeler
- 61. Grow dim
- 62. Trampled

(Solution will be on Chronicle's next issue)

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY? (from page 7, **HUMANITARIAN....**)

disruption of an established family unit will occur if the alien is deported. The alien's family left behind in the U.S. will suffer hardship if the alien is deported. The alien facing deportation is elderly or in poor health and will have no welfare or health benefits in his home country. The alien being deported has lived in the U.S. for a lengthy period of time. The alien sought to be deported has no home to go to in his former country.

These factors may be suitable for deportation purposes. But they are irrelevant in the context of a humanitarian reinstatement request.

Hopefully, President Donald J. Trump, who believes that there are too many government regulations, will cause to be undone these humanitarian reinstatement regulations improperly imposed by immigration authorities.

Comment: Under the circumstances prescribed by INA Section 204(l), USCIS may adjudicate a dead petitioner's petition if the qualifying beneficiary was residing in the U.S. on the date of the petitioner's death and continues to reside in the U.S.

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: 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 inized United States citizen*

LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

What To Do If ICE Agents Go To Your Workplace

Of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrive at the place of work of an undocumented immigrant, he should be aware of his rights granted by the United States Constitution.

ICE agents have conducted raids in offices and other workplaces in the country. In Los Angeles, a man was arrested at the Walmart where he worked. Immigration officials have confirmed that agents have raided

workplaces in many cities and states including Atlanta, Chicago, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina, and arrested hundreds.

These raids should underscore the need for undocumented immigrants to know their rights when ICE agents confront them at work.

First, the ICE agents must have a valid search or arrest warrant signed by a judge with the person's name correctly spelled and the correct address of the place of work. The clear consent of the employer of the undocumented immigrant must be given in order for them to enter the place of work.

If the undocumented immigrant is questioned by the ICE agents, he may remain silent and not answer any questions. He need not give any other information such as his address or immigration status to the ICE agents. If he does decide to speak to the ICE agents, he must not lie or show any false documents or documents with false information because these would be felonies.

If he is asked to be grouped according to immigration status, he is not required to move to an area designated for a particular group.

Every person is entitled to speak to a lawyer, especially

before speaking to any ICE agent. Furthermore, even if this is not mandatory, it is best for any person to seek the help of a lawyer in order to ensure that he is represented and his rights are protected.

If the ICE agents do enter the workplace, the undocumented immigrant might feel threatened or scared. It is important to stay calm and not to panic and run away. If the ICE agents stop him, he may ask if he can leave the premises. If they say no, he must not leave and may remain silent and ask to speak to a lawyer.

Employers, however, are required by the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) to verify the identity

and immigration status of employees they hire after November 6, 1986. They are required to accomplish an Employment Eligibility Verification Form or "I-9" form for each employee. This is because the IRCA made it illegal for an employer to hire a person who is not authorized to work in the United States.

Once the I-9 Form is completed, there is no need for the employee to show his documents, much less to leave them with his employer. The only exception is when the law requires the employer to re-verify the employee's status.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

MAFFAA Holds Ilustrado Ball



MAFFAA Artist, Board of Trustees and Sustainer for the Arts during the Ilustrado Ball event.

MARYLAND--The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists (MAFFAA), a non-profit organization, recently held its historic inaugural Ilustrado Ball. The Ilustrado Ball was jam-packed with diverse multi-ethnic Asian-Americans and guests.

The entertainment portion showcased a wide range of cultural dances by the Mabuhay Youth Dancers and operatic presentations. One of the highlights of the evening was the revelation of Mr. Ilustrado. Flying trans-Pacific and across the USA, Mr. Ilustrado was Ramon Sumibcay. As the co-host for the evening, Sumibcay stunned the audience with his terrific renditions of great songs.

Lulut Palacios Chan, host for the evening said, "Mr. Ilustrado was so amazing with his fabulous performance." Carol Manilay-Robles, PNAMDC Treasurer and PHC social media Director added, "Mr. Ilustrado, you're such a great entertainer." Suriya Kaul, MAFFAA Director of Philanthropy, said: "Wow!! the Ilustrado Ball Fundraising Gala Event was mind blowing. It was packed and attended by guests from all around United States."

Aside from Mr. Ilustrado's great performance, the audience was also mesmerized by MAFFAA's opera singers. Juditha Seghers, a Soprano, impressed and amazed the audience with her unique vocal styling and incredible vocal range. John

Clayton, Tenor, described as a dynamic singer who performs gallantly, put the audience in standstill by singing classic Tagalog songs. Allan Palacios Chan, a Philippine-born American Tenor dubbed as standout performer, "brought musicality and attractive flexible "leggiere" sound. Allan is well-accomplished and well-educated with his Doctorate in Musical Arts. Recently, he was a scholar fellow at the Berlin Opera Academy in Berlin, German.

Christina Poy, Administrative Director from the Office of Maryland Governor's Commission of Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South American Affairs, delivered the keynote speech. State Representative Aruna Miller stated that MAFFAA has been doing great work throughout the community and the region through their promotion of international understanding and friendship with enriched cultural exchanges.

MAFFAA recognized outstanding citizens and organizations, Modern Day Ilustrados, for their altruistic and philanthropic activities throughout the United States. The three individual

awardees were: Erica Lachica, Anjana Bordoloi and Ramon Calalang. The two organization awardees for their sustained volunteerism were: Bicol Association of Metro-

politan DC (BAMDC) and St. Jude Filipino Community Ministry, Rockville MD. Atty. Leticia Hermosa MAFFAA's Friends of the Arts presented the awards.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11TH ANNUAL PASKO SA FILCOM (CHRISTMAS AT THE FILCOM) | December 3, 2017 | 3:00 - 7:00 pm | FILCOM CENTER IN WAIPAHU | For more information, call the FilCom Center at (808) 680-0451.

PASKO! AT THE HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART (HOMA) | presented by the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) Hawaii | December 17, 2017 | 10:00 am - 4:30 pm as part of BOH's Family Sunday | The Honolulu Museum of Art is located at 900 Beretania Street | Admission is free and open to the public. | For inquiries regarding the "Parol, Pasko at Perlas" activities please email <fauw1987@gmail.com>.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Manila Police Video Disputes 'Nanlaban' Narrative, Bishop Says

by Marc Jayson Cayabyab
Friday, December 1, 2017

MANILA, Philippines — Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David said closed circuit television footage of Manila police shooting a drug suspect runs counter to the "nanlaban" narrative that only suspects who violently resist arrest are killed.

Speaking to the STAR in an interview, the incoming Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines vice president said he was shocked at footage obtained by Reuters that suggest cops in Tondo, Manila killed three drug suspects in a slum community last October.

The footage showed police turning security cameras askew, and dragging a body to a pedicab to be brought to the hospital only to be declared dead on arrival. Reuters reported that the videos show "police took at least 25 minutes to haul away the men they had shot." The footage, the bishop said, confirms fears that police on drug operations do not kill only in self-defense, the bishop said.

"That's what I've been saying since a long time ago already. The common narrative of 'nanlaban' is

very doubtful. People also have common sense," David said.

The bishop of the Caloocan diocese said the common police report that slain drug suspects were found with packets of shabu and firearms also defies "common sense."

The graphic footage gives credence to the September 24-30 Pulse Asia survey that showed that 73 percent of respondents believe extrajudicial killings are happening in the administration's war on drugs, David said

"This footage is just a confirmation of what has always been at the back of our minds, that extrajudicial killings are really happening, and that the 'nanlaban' narrative is not true," David said.

Police: It was a legitimate operation

Director Oscar Albayalde, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said Thursday that the officers involved in the operation had already answered allegations of irregularities and had been cleared.

"They said that they have barangay officials who will cor-

roborate that those who were killed really fought back and there were guns recovered from the scene," Albayalde said in Filipino in an interview Thursday morning.

He also said that if the Manila Police District had wanted to cover up the operation, then Reuters would not have been able to retrieve the videos.

Senior Superintendent Joel Napoleon Coronel, Manila Police District chief, earlier this week said the video was inconclusive.

He said that the cameras were "located more than 100 meters away from the actual shootout" and that the report is "inconclusive, at the very least."

He added the case has been referred to the police Internal Affairs Service, which, he has been assured, will conduct a "thorough and, definitely impartial, deeper investigation into the matter."

Reuters, in its report, said "the footage doesn't show the police shooting the three men, but does show an officer appearing to open fire on an unseen target. [Alleged drug dealer Rolando] Campo then falls backwards into the frame, his body hitting the ground. His arms move for a while before resting motionless." (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Hosts Briefing to Address Nursing Shortage

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02), co-chair of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, hosted a briefing focused on the severe shortage of nurses in Hawai'i and across the country. The event featured a panel discussion with nursing leaders and fellow lawmakers, along with a film screening of Defining HOPE, a documentary that follows patients with life-threatening illness as they make choices about how they want to

live, how much medical technology they can accept, what they hope for and how that hope evolves when life is threatened.

"Nurses and caregivers are the heart of our healthcare system. Day in and day out, they provide life-saving care with empathy and compassion in the most trying and stressful situations. Yet across the country, we continue to see nursing workforce shortages, especially in our rural and underserved communities, like those in my home state

of Hawai'i," said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. "Today's discussion identified opportunities to collaborate to address the severe nursing shortage, including passing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act I've introduced. This legislation would reauthorize federal funding for nursing and education programs to help grow and support the nursing workforce across the country, and expand access to quality healthcare for our keiki, veterans, kūpuna, and others in need."

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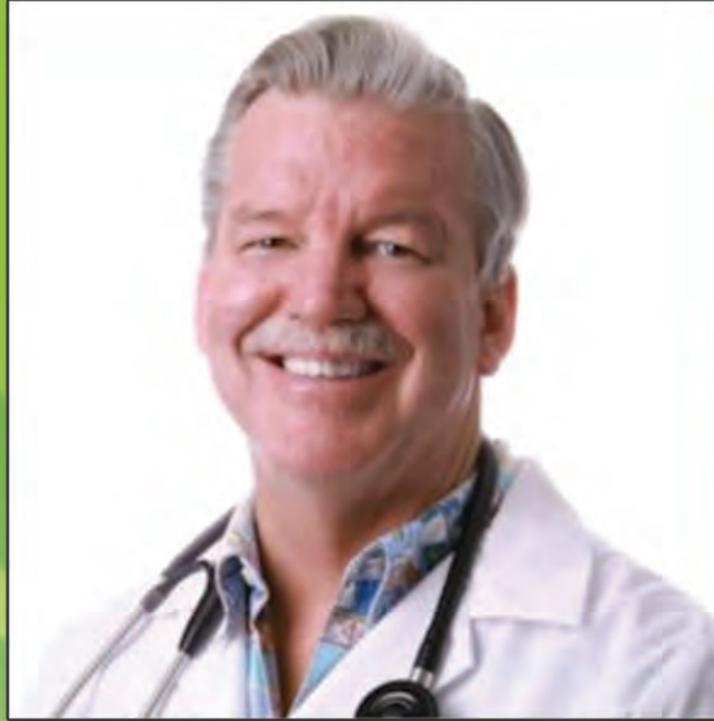
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