

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ MAY 18, 2013 ◆

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EDITORIALS

The Many Faces of the Philippine Consulate

As the proverbial saying goes, there is more to the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu than meets the eye. Situated at 2433 Pali Highway, the Consulate's distinct Southern colonial style is visually appealing and often pointed out by local tourist guides.

Mostly everyone knows that the Consulate renews Philippine passports, issues visas, legalizes documents and performs a host of other services. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. The Consulate's hard-working staff also toils long hours behind the scenes on numerous other events, including *Araw ng Kagitingan* (Day of Valor), Philippine Independence Day, Filipino Parade & Fiesta, trade missions, voter registration drives, fundraisers, elections in the Philippines, official tours hosted by the Philippine government and awards ceremonies for outstanding Filipinos overseas. The Consulate is also THE place for cultural gatherings during holidays, concerts, town hall meetings, receptions for visiting dignitaries and many other functions. Its grounds have also served as temporary living quarters for displaced Filipino veterans and as a repository for boxes of donations and relief supplies for victims of natural disasters.

To its credit, the Consulate has taken proactive steps to instill ethnic pride among younger Filipino-Americans. The Consulate encourages them to be more active in political governance and to be aware of the enormous potential for empowerment given Filipinos' large numbers as Hawaii's second largest ethnic group. The Consulate has also made a concerted effort to be more involved in social and civic events involving the Filipino community. These events foster the common good not only of the Filipino community but of the larger society as well.

And when it comes to symbols that evoke cultural pride among Filipinos, no other man-made facility, except perhaps the beloved Filipino Community Center (FilCom) in Waipahu, can match the iconic Philippine Consulate. It not only represents the Philippine government but also symbolizes international friendship and serves as a bridge connecting Filipinos with Hawaii's multi-ethnic community. May it always serve as a beacon of pride and unity for all Filipinos who call Hawaii home.

North Korean Hostility Ought To Be Settled But Not In The Way We're Heading

For Hawaii residents, American foreign policy usually takes a back seat to national and local politics. But in the case of U.S.-North Korean relations, Hawaii residents have a lot at stake simply because of our geographic location.

Sooner or Later?

At this moment, military specialists say North Korea does not have the technology to launch a long-range missile attack capable of reaching Hawaii. A legitimate concern is whether North Korea will have that ability in the near future. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un continues to refine his country's nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) guidance programs with the obvious first targets aimed at Hawaii, Alaska and California.

The U.S. also has technological question marks, specifically the development of full-proof effective interceptors to block po-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

We hope that you had a blast at the Filipino Fiesta and Parade, which was held last weekend at Kapiolani Park. It was heart-warming to see the community come together to celebrate this very important event, which would not be possible without the help of many dedicated volunteers who came early and stayed late to make the Fiesta and Parade an annual success. Mahalo also to the many sponsors who generously gave their time and resources.

For this issue, the Chronicle has provided a detailed look into the functions and duties of the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu. Led by Consul General Julius Torres, the Consulate provides many services for Philippine citizens, including administering oaths of citizenships, passport renewals, authentication of documents, affidavit services and other citizenship matters. This story (see page 4) is long overdue. In fact, in my recollection, there has never been a cover story detailing the Consulate, its mission and hard-working staff. We have also provided a brief background of the Consulate's staff. We hope that this story will enlighten our readers on the many consular services available at the Consulate.

In case you didn't know it, May 17th marks the special 30th Anniversary of the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM). To commemorate the occasion, a special gala is planned this Saturday at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. Proceeds from the gala will help AMM to continue funding its numerous medical programs and services. Mahalo to the Aloha Medical Mission for the tremendous work it has done for the underserved people in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific and Asia.

In other news, Gov. Neil Abercrombie presented a \$1.5 million check to officials from the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center (see page 12). Such a facility is long overdue for Filipinos on the Garden Isle. And with the summer travel season around the corner, we offer in our Travel column on page 11 several useful tips on ensuring your personal safety when going abroad. Please read it carefully if you are leaving home this summer. But if you're planning to stay home, why not immerse yourself in a few good books? If you're interested, turn to page 8 for our "Health & Family" column on summer reading.

That's it for now. As always, if you would like to share with us a story idea, suggestion or concern, please send it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Until next time... *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

tential nuclear warheads on ICBMs launched from North Korea. Clearly the race is on—a new arms race that would not only involve the U.S. and North Korea, but other American allies in the Pacific, including South Korea and Japan intent on establishing their own lines of defense, as well as China—the big boss in that region which is intent on keeping its status and whose leaders have already expressed dismay over the growing U.S. presence in Asia.

High Political Drama

In the last month, President Jong-un ordered his military to prepare missile strikes on U.S. bases in the Pacific and South Korea. He has also declared that his country is in a state of war. The Pentagon dispatched B-2 stealth bombers and ramped up joint military exercises with South Korea. Led by the U.S., new U.N. sanctions against North Korea have been established on top of existing ones that have effectively hurt North Korea economically in the past decades via trade embargoes. North Korea has recently conducted a nuclear test and vowed to re-establish its

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

On the Sakadas and that Immigration Bill

When I arrived from California in 2006, Hawaii was “celebrating” the 100th anniversary of the sakadas, when the first 15 Filipino men, mostly from the Visayas and Ilocos, were brought in to work for the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association.

Is it worth it to celebrate a negative?

Actually, it's fitting to recall the history this month as we celebrate on Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. But the sakada? Sure, these were the “roots” of Filipinos in Hawaii, but look at the circumstances.

These men weren't “immigrants,” they were indentured laborers, men who

ranged in age from 14 to 56. Most were single, a few were married. The married ones left behind their families. None of them came thinking they would do anything more than trade back-breaking labor for some cash, then go back to the Philippines.

All told nearly 130,000 came to Hawaii during 1906 to 1946.

And I always felt lucky my father wasn't one of them.

In the 1920s, my dad came straight to California from Ilocos. He might have thought he was bypassing the hard labor in the fields. But many of them found themselves in the fields of Stockton and Salinas, instead.

Of course, my father always wanted to better himself. So he worked the kitchens of San Francisco, not California's field. And he was in the pantry, doing salads and desserts. Said Dad: “It was

cooler.”

Betterment is all relative.

So when I came back to Hawaii in 2006, leaving my family in California while I sought work in the media, I was touched by the ironic twist of going to the place my father had skipped.

When we're all just seeds in the wind, who knows where you'll end up.

That's especially true if the winds are political, as they are with the current immigration bill now before the U.S. Senate.

It is patched together like a re-apportionment plan. A little here, a little there. And it's not based on common sense values like family unification, but more on corporate and political needs.

Conservatives want to be hard-line on illegal immigration. So the bill has a ridiculous emphasis on border security that is overly militaristic and costly, even though there's been an 86% decline in

illegal border crossings. To make legalization—or a pathway to citizenship—contingent on high security benchmarks just seems to dangle the carrot on an uncertain stick.

There's also the family provisions which have been eliminated: brother/sisters, older married children. Maybe the Senate felt Asian Americans, who tend to use these preferences more than others, wouldn't feel so bad since they might be able to get relatives in on increased H1B visas to tech firms.

The Senate was wrong.

Hard to say which is more tentative, the bill's pathway to citizenship or the bill's pathway to becoming law. Most certainly, we aren't done with compromising.

One idea being floated by conservatives is the creation of more legal ways for people to enter and exit America. Advocates say fewer would have the need to come here illegally.

But that's not immigration. That's a longish commute.

In fact, it sounds like another sakada program, whereby second-class workers get some of the advantages of being in America—just none of the advantages of being an American.

When we celebrated sakadas in 2006, it should be a reminder we never want to go back to that again.

In 2013, America must insist on real immigration reform.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who has written on Filipino and Asian-American issues for many years. For two years, he served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. Guillermo was the first Filipino-American to host a national news program when he hosted NPR's “All Things Considered.”

He later served as press secretary to then Congressman Norman Mineta in the 103rd Congress in Washington. Based in Northern California, Guillermo, won an American Book Award in 2000 for his book “Amok: Essays from an Asian American Perspective.”

EDITORIALS (from page 2, NORTH KOREAN...)

uranium enhancing program. In March 2013, North Korea announced the end of the 1953 Armistice, a North- and South-Korean non-aggression pact. In April, North Korea's state news agency announced “the moment of explosion is fast approaching.”

New Leader, New Threats

Jong-Un's threats against his southern neighbor and the U.S. is nothing that his late father North Korean leader Kim Jong-il hasn't already done. The elder Kim constantly ratcheted up threats as a means to bargain for aid. Under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush in 1994 and 2005, the U.S. provided money, food and political recognition in return for suspension of North Korea's nuclear program—a kind of nuclear-blackmail-and-ransom-for-goods game. The elder Kim used nuclear weapons as a strategic economic policy.

What's unclear this time around is the younger Kim's motivation for escalating

threats and how far is he willing to take it. Is it old posturing for aid? Or is he perhaps playing to a domestic audience, solidifying his countrymen's support for his new leadership by drumming up old foreign prejudices? Or both? The fact that Jong-un is inexperienced and overconfident is plenty reason for anxiety.

What to Do?

What we do know of both Kim's reigns is that U.S. sanctions have not worked. North Korea has grown accustomed to poverty. Increased military pressure by the U.S. has only heightened regional insecurity.

The old U.S. policy of refusing to enter into formal diplomatic talks with North Korea has also been ineffective. The strategy of waiting for an end to the former Kim's rule before engaging in diplomatic talks has backfired: his son has assumed power and North Korea remains hostile. Are we willing to wait another 40 plus years of Jong-un's dictatorship and possible successor, another

Kim the third, while their country moves closer to achieving full nuclear capability that could reach American soil? Even if this latest crisis runs a non-combative course in the short term, how we deal with North Korea must change.

That first step should be recognizing that merely talking with North Korea is not a sign of concession. The alternative to direct talks with Pyongyang could be far more disastrous going forward. North Korea's army is 1.21 million strong, the 4th largest in the world. It also has 9,495,000 active reserves. The U.S. could win a war against an army that large, but at what cost? We can look to China as a good example of what opening up diplomatic channels of communication can achieve.

The second step: slowly lifting economic sanctions as talks and relations between our two countries progress shouldn't be ruled out. We can once again look to China and the entire formerly communist world to see how our relations have improved with each of those

countries. It's amazing how economic prosperity and the strengthening of a middle-class can contribute to the fall of dictators and oppressive regimes. We have seen examples of this all over the world within the last 30 years. The same scenario could unfold for North Korea only if it is made to feel

a part of the world community. In time, a more enlightened North Korean citizenry exposed to how the rest of the world lives and thinks will do their part and put an end to the Kim dynasty in their terms. The North Korean hostility must come to an end but not in the direction we're heading.



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COVER STORY

Getting to Know the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu

By Chona Montesines-Sonido and Carlota Ader

Tens of thousands of motorists drive by it every day—the stately, gleaming white semi-colonial-style mansion situated along the busy, yet scenic Pali Highway. The vast majority of them have never set foot onto its well-manicured grounds. Sadly, many local Filipinos themselves have also never visited the property.

It's the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu—a symbol of ethnic pride for Hawaii's Filipino community and home away from home for many Filipinos. Despite its six decades-long existence, far too many Filipinos are unaware of the Consulate's functions and services.

But if you are a Philippine citizen residing or visiting the Aloha State and need assistance, the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu is your "911." For instance, if you've lost your passport or a family member back home needs to get in touch with you, the Philippine consulate is your point of contact.

In general, the role of the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is to represent the Philippine government in the

state of Hawaii. The jurisdiction of the Philippine Consulate General includes all the islands of Hawaii, American Samoa and French Polynesia.

According to Consul General Julius Torres, the Consulate does more than issue passports, visas, authentications and notarials.

"We promote the interests of the Philippines, protect the welfare of Filipinos and promote economic relations," he says.

The Philippine government follows what it refers to as the Three Pillars of Philippine Foreign Policy—national security, economic diplomacy and assistance to nationals. Recently, a fourth pillar has been added—"Cultural Diplomacy."

"We feel it is important to promote Philippine culture, es-



The Philippine Consulate staff—here to serve the needs of Hawaii's Filipino community

pecially to younger Filipino-Americans who are longing to know more about their roots," Torres says. "The next generation of Filipinos should remember what it's like to be a Filipino".

History

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu formally opened for business on November 14, 1948 when then-Consul General Modesto Farolan and his wife hosted a reception.

A month earlier, the property was purchased by the Philippine Memorial Foundation. The Consulate was once the home of sugar baron Albert Horner, who bought the property in 1913 from the estate of

William Pfothenauer, a German Consul and a vice president of Hackfeld and Company.

Originally consisting of 57,000 square feet of land, the Philippine Memorial Foundation sold some 11,400 square feet to the Territory of Hawaii for the construction of Pali Highway. The remaining 46,000 square feet and the building was sold to the Republic of the Philippines in May 1961. Prior to its purchase, the property was rented by the Philippine government.

As of 1993, the Philippine government has spent approximately \$300,000 to renovate and refurbish the mansion. Its market value as of 2010 is approximately \$3.2 million.

The Consulate General's location is sometimes referred to as "Consular Row" because the Japanese and Korean Consulates as well as the Taiwan Economic Office are located in the same district.

Consular Services

Among the services that the Embassy/Consulates General provide are the following:

- Issuance of passports, travel documents and visas
- Conduct of consular outreach programs
- Consularization of documents such as Special Power of Attorney (SPAs), deeds, school and medical records, trademarks, oaths

(continued on page 5)

MEET THE CONSULATE STAFF

ROBERTO T. BERNARDO, *Consul*



Duties: In charge of political affairs, technical matters, veterans' affairs, business, trade, investment and economic matters, consular affairs, assistance for Filipino nationals and other duties that the Consul General may assign.

- **Experience:** registered mechanical engineer in the Philippines. Worked for the Philippine Dept. of Energy for 11 years before joining the foreign service. Served as a consul at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago from 2004 to 2010.

Joyleen E. Santos, *Foreign Service Officer III*



Duties: Oversee administrative, economic, cultural and some consular and community-related functions of the Consulate. Also

represents the Consulate or consul general in various official functions and community meetings. Reports directly to the consul general.

- **Experience:** Majored in political science and served as Principal Assistant for the U.S. Division of the Office of American Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, in Manila from 2009 to 2012.

EMILY E. REYES, *Foreign Service Officer III*



Duties: Assessing, processing and issuance of appropriate visas to qualified visa applicants; maintaining files both in paper and electronic forms; preparing monthly visa reports, answering clients' inquiries via phone and email.

- **Experience:** Prior to Honolulu, she worked at the Philippine Embassy in

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4. **GETTING...**)

- and appointments
- Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths of Filipino nationals
- Processing of applications for dual citizenship

The Consulate also offers assistance for transport of pets to the Philippines; applying for NBI clearances; renewal of Philippine driver's license; medical missions to the Philippines and securing of J-1 waivers.

Increasing Trade Between Hawaii and the Philippines

Fostering trade relations between Hawaii and the Philippines has been a long-time goal of the Philippine Consulate General. In fulfilling this goal, Consul General Torres joined dozens of participants in the 23rd Annual Trade Mission to the Philippines, which was sponsored by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The mission was held from February 1-11, 2013 and made stops in Manila, Ilocos

Norte and Ilocos Sur.

The delegates who participated in this year's trade mission included business, community and government leaders from a variety of businesses including restaurant franchises, airlines, manufacturers, commodity exporters and importers, hospitals, financial institutions and professional services. All were seeking to either invest in or strengthen relations with the Philippines.

"We have done a good job in promoting trade and investments between the Philippines and Hawaii," says Torres. "The recent trade mission was very well received both in the Philippines and in Hawaii.

"We continuously promote a healthy trade relationship. It's an on-going process and we always look for ways to engage Filipino and Hawaiian entrepreneurs in an exchange of ideas on doing business in the Philippines."

Fostering Relations With Filipino Community

Because the consulate represents the Philippine government, it must always project a positive image of the country and relay this image to the local Filipino community. In fact, a good relationship with the community is downright essential.



Local businesswoman Melody Calisay, Consul General Julius Torres, Philippine trade representative Archimedes Gomez and Bill Spencer of Hawaii Oceanic Technology were among the many attendees at the Business & Trade Forum held May 7, 2013 at the FilCom Center
Photography by Tim Llana

Waipahu resident Adela Salacup, who operates a care home facility, has nothing but praise for the consulate.

"So far, I'm very pleased with the services rendered by them and I have not yet encountered any problem or discrepancies," she says. "They are very compassionate and understanding. They are doing great so far. They are well-liked even by non-Filipinos because they are flexible in their ways

and attitude."

However, Salacup suggests more transparency. She specifically suggests a newsletter informing more Filipinos of the Consulate's regular activities.

Fidel Hufana Jr., a program specialist at Kahi Mohala Hospital, suggests that the Consulate expand its visibility and try to accommodate as many people as possible during their special events.

"They should repair, fix and beautify the Philippine Consulate to invite more Filipino nationals to come and visit the place and know the staff there," he says. "They should plan more regular events and send out fliers."

It should be noted how-

ever, that since Consul General Torres arrived, many improvements have been made to beautify the Consulate, including bathroom renovation, lanai floor retiling and improved landscaping.

Dr. Teresita Bernales describes the Consulate staff as "very helpful and accommodating." She suggests that they utilize social media to the full extent to better inform, advise and assist Philippine citizens.

"There should also be more outreach efforts to involve a great majority of the Filipino population," she says. "They should be involved in the greater community and be very visible. As the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii, we need our presence to be recognized as a viable, cohesive and effective entity in the community."

Judito Versoza, who works in Waikiki as a bartender, sums it up best when describing the ambiance at the Consulate.

"Whenever I visit the Consulate, I feel like I'm back home," he says.

MEET THE CONSULATE STAFF (from page 4.)

Singapore as a cultural officer from 1997 to 2003.

EFREN O. BRILLO, *Caretaker*



Duties: Maintain the cleanliness of the Consulate's premises and to oversee the use of the lanai during community functions.

MARIA MILAGROS MONJE, *Foreign Service Staff Officer II*



Duties: Transmits outgoing official communications and receives official communications; file management; and performs consular duties during outreach programs on the neighbor islands.

- **Experience:** Worked at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, China from 1992 to 1997; and at the Philippine Embassy in the Hague, the Netherlands from 2002 to 2008.

MARIA J. BERNARDO, *Foreign Service Staff Officer I*



Duties: Collects and deposits daily transactions in the depository bank; and prepares daily and monthly financial reports.

- **Experience:** Worked at the Philippine Consulate General in Saipan from 1991 to 1997; and for the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago from 2004 to 2010.

REYNALDO D. CALAGUIAN,



Foreign Service Staff Employee I

Duties: Extend assistance to distressed Filipinos in problems such as domestic violence, labor disputes, family problems, missing persons and immigration status. Also visits incarcerated Filipinos in various detention centers to ensure that they are treated well and Filipino fishermen at various Honolulu piers who don't possess alien status in the U.S.

- **Experience:** Has served at Consulate for past six years.

ALETH S. PANOPIO, *Foreign Service Staff Officer I*



Duties: Monitors the funding requirements of the Consulate. Helps the Philippine government allocate properly funds for the good of the foreign service.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AMM to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

The Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) will host its 30th anniversary with a gala scheduled for May 17, 2013 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. The honorary chairs of the event are U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz and his wife Linda.

AMM is celebrating three decades of inspiration, community service and volunteerism. This year the non-profit organization will be honoring Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) and the Queen's Medical Center.

"The incredible work we are able to do could not be accomplished without the help of our amazing volunteers and partners," says AMM president Dr. Bradley Wong. "We are thrilled to be able to honor HDS, HMSA and the Queen's

Medical Center at this year's gala."

Proceeds from the event will help AMM to continue funding the many medical programs and services for underserved people in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific and Asia. Since 2002, AMM has operated the only free dental clinic in the state which treats about 170 patients per month. An estimated 430,000 people—or roughly one-third of the state's residents—lack adequate dental care because they cannot afford dental insurance.

AMM also runs two other dental programs aimed specifically at women and children on Oahu. First Smile takes hygiene and preventative education into local preschool and kindergarten classes, while Welcome Smile offers temporary restorative dentistry to help women who have been



abused or incarcerated.

In August 2010, AMM launched Kōkua me ka Laulima: Help With Many Hands, a program that offers general surgery services to the uninsured and poor. The joint project with Queen's and Castle Medical Center brings together private surgeons, anesthesiologists and community health centers to provide free surgeries.

AMM also focuses on tak-

ing medical and surgical care throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The non-profit group has organized more than 100 mission trips and performed more than 15,000 life-changing operations. Seventeen countries including the Philippines, Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Micronesia have all benefited from AMM's overseas missions.

Every dollar donated is

leveraged many times over by the multiplying factor of volunteerism. AMM receives voluntary services from nurses, physician assistants and physicians both locally and from the mainland.

AMM has also developed training partnerships with the University of Hawaii-Manoa School of Nursing, the Hawaii Pacific University School of Social Work and Nursing, Tripler Army Medical Center, Farrington High School Health Academy and the UH-Manoa Department of Public Health Studies. Students in these programs gain invaluable on-the-job experience while helping the less fortunate.

This year's dinner committee chairs are Jeffrey and Lynn Watanabe. Those interested in attending the 30th Anniversary Gala can purchase tickets by calling 847-3443.

Film Shot in Zamboanga Coming to Honolulu Museum of Art this May

By Maita Milallos

Thirteen young adults. A concert in a conflict zone. An audience of 10,000 people. Sounds inconceivable. But Barclay Martin of the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA) and the musical director and composer of the documentary "Rise and Dream" is bringing the film to the Honolulu Museum of Art on May 19 and 21.

The film documents the rigor of rehearsals of these young adults who, according to its film production, "have accepted the challenge to learn their own cultural instruments

to perform on the biggest stage of their lives."

The idea behind the film

In a telephone interview with Martin, he said that the CFCA approached him in 2006 to brainstorm ideas of how they can tell a story of one of the communities that they work with. The brainstorm turned into an idea to document the concert.

The CFCA is a non-profit sponsorship organization based in Kansas City founded by lay Catholic workers acting on the Gospel call to serve the poor. It currently works in 22 countries, including the Philippines serving 40,000 people in



Legaspi City, Manila, Antipolo, Quezon City and Zamboanga City.

The organization chose Zamboanga for a significant purpose. Martin explains,

"What made Zamboanga the perfect choice is because of the way CFCA works. It works with people of all faith tradi-

tions and celebrates the diversity of our world. There is a great diversity of faith traditions in Zamboanga - indigenous peoples, the Catholics and the Muslims exist in the same space.

Martin further went on to demonstrate that the goal of the concert was to serve as a celebration of the community the CFCA worked with. He says,

"One of the things that is most significant about the success of this project is that there is extraordinary diversity among the families. They work harmoniously together, they work well together, work beyond their differences, find their similarities and are able to support one another better."

The almost "impossible" concert

What makes this film compelling is that it takes the viewers right through the homes and hearts of these thirteen young adults some of whom have never experienced live music and have never imagined themselves as part of a concert. It tells about the dreams they have for themselves and their families to rise out of poverty in a region

wracked by insurgency.

But this is not the regular type of concert young people go to these days. Martin observes that it was quite a challenge to convince young Filipinos to opt for ancestral music over pop music popularized by the likes of Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. He notes,

"I learned very early in my time in the Philippines that the traditional music has somewhat been discarded, forgotten by young Filipinos. I am interested in Filipino music, the cultural values it represents, the uniqueness of Filipino history and its traditions, and the stories embedded in it. And so it became a beautiful opportunity for these thirteen young people who have not put a lot of value in their own music to have an opportunity to understand it and understand their own identity as well."

But how has the CFCA managed to bring together 10,000 people to its concert?

Martin admits that they have a very large internal network to start with. When they filmed the documentary from January 2007 until May 2008,

(continued on page 10)

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Can Police Force DUI Suspect to Give Blood Sample?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

A motorist was stopped by a police officer for speeding and crossing the centerline. The officer asked him to take a breath test to measure his blood alcohol concentration (BAC) but he refused. The police arrested him and took him to a hospital for blood testing. He refused to consent to the blood test. The officer ordered a lab technician to take a sample of the motorist's blood, which was above the legal limit. The motorist was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He moved to suppress the blood test result on the ground that the taking of his blood sample without a search warrant violated his Fourth Amendment right.

The trial court ordered the blood test result suppressed.

The state supreme court affirmed, citing *Schmerber v. California*, 384 U.S. 757, which held that a DWI suspect's warrantless blood test is valid where the officer "might reasonably have believed that he was confronted with an emergency in which the delay necessary to obtain a warrant, under the circumstances, threatened the destruction of evidence." The state court said that this case was a routine DWI investigation and that except for the natural dissipation of blood alcohol, there was no factor suggesting an emergency, and therefore the warrantless test without the motorist's consent violated his right to be free from unreasonable searches of his person.

Exceptions to Warrantless Blood Tests

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed, holding that the natural dissipation of alcohol in the bloodstream does not constitute an exigency in every case in order to justify con-

ducting a blood test without a warrant. A warrantless search of the person is reasonable only if it falls within a recognized exception, such as when the "exigencies of the situation" make the needs of law enforcement so compelling that [a] warrantless search is objectively reasonable." The court said that it looks to the totality of the circumstances in determining whether an exigency exists.

The court rejected the State's argument that exigent circumstances necessarily exist when an officer has probable cause to believe that a person has been driving under the influence of alcohol because BAC evidence is inherently evanescent. In rejecting this argument for a *per se* rule, the court indicated that while a person's blood alcohol level declines until the alcohol is eliminated, it does not follow that the Court should depart from a careful case-by-case assessment of exigency. When an officer can reasonably obtain a war-

rant before having a blood sample drawn without significantly undermining the efficacy of the search, the Fourth Amendment mandates that they do so.

The court explained that blood testing is different from other cases where the evidence may be destroyed, such as where a suspect has control over easily disposable evidence, since BAC evidence naturally dissipates in a gradual and relatively predictable manner. The natural dissipation of alcohol in the blood may support an exigency finding in a specific case, said the court, but it does not do so categorically. Current conditions allow more expeditious processing of warrant applications especially in drunk driving cases where evidence supporting probable cause is simple.

The court emphasized that motorists' diminished expectation of privacy does not diminish their privacy interest in preventing a government agent from piercing their skin. Although a blood test

conducted in a medical setting by trained personnel is less intrusive than other bodily invasions, the Court said it has never retreated from its recognition that any compelled intrusion into the human body implicates significant, constitutionally protected privacy interests. The court concluded that the government's general interest in combating drunk driving does not justify departing from the warrant requirement without showing exigent circumstances that make securing a warrant impractical in a particular case.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.

MEET THE CONSULATE STAFF (from page 5.)

- **Experience:** Worked at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing from 1991 to 1997 and at the Philippine Embassy in Milan, Italy from 2000 to 2007.

DICK A. ULSA, Driver



Duties: performs driving chores for the Consul General, officers and staff. Maintains the cleanliness and upkeep of the consulate.

- **Experience:** Honolulu is his first foreign assignment

JOHNNY B. DIANSON, Foreign Service Staff Employee I



Experience: Serves as acting property officer (GUM) and driver clerk.

VIRGILIO A. PACIO, Foreign Service Staff Officer III



Duties: Processes passport applications, visas and travel documents; prepares monthly reports of travel documents issued; assists in the processing of authentication documents; and signs applications for transmission to central site in Manila.

- **Experience:** Worked for the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam from 1997 to 2003.

LITA T. PASCUAL, Foreign Service Staff Officer III



Duties: Encodes and scans all electronic passports from the Department of Foreign Affairs

in Manila; reports replacement of lost passports; follows up passport applications; helps in the processing of travel documents and applications for birth, marriage and dual citizenship applications.

- **Experience:** Worked at the Philippine Consulate General in Manado, Indonesia from 2000 to 2006

TERESITA K. CANILAO, Secretary



Duties: prepares schedule of the Consul General; arranges calls and meetings; performs secretarial duties; answers telephone inquiries.

- **Experience:** Formerly worked for the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and is currently a locally-hired staff member.

- NELSON M. ICARANOM, Consular Assistant
- ROLAND R. CABANERO, Collecting Officer
- JEFFREY T. DE MESA, Protocol, Cultural and Information Officer
- JUSTO "TITO" ORROS, staff in the consulate
- COL. RESTITUTO PADILLA, JR., AFP Liaison Officer to the US PACOM

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



Board-certified ophthalmologist
U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer,
Philippines
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1988 to 1990
Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

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Summer Reading

DRAGONFLY by Tisha C. Bautista

Who says that only kids should have summer book lists? Perhaps for us adults, this is also the best time to catch up on some reading. After all, isn't it during this time that our brains go on autopilot? Somehow when vegging out under the sun or in front of the DVD player, we can put all thought processes on indefinite pause.

Allow me to suggest a few titles. They may not be your run-of-the-mill novels or typical sci-fi epics, but it's always good to try something new. You won't be graded for it, grilled on the plot or even be required to write a book review. However, you may be surprised at what these seemingly simple books can unearth and perhaps, the different things in your life that may be up for actual re-

view.
Enjoy...

THE LAW ON DIVINE COMPENSATION – ON WORK, MONEY AND MIRACLES

By Marianne Williamson

Although more known for being quoted by Nelson Mandela during his inaugural address as well as books such as *Return to Love* and *Illuminata*, Marianne Williamson's new book is equally amazing. Still based on her understanding of "A Course in Miracles" where "...nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists..." this book takes on a more practical application. She tackles the mundane concerns of job security vs. the concept of vocations, creating wealth and abundance as well as releasing anger and transcending fear in all forms.

Despite its terse 180 pages, every line is filled with

simple wisdom. You can still expect the depth and poignancy of her writing, but with it an almost everyday guide on how to understand and apply this "Divine Law of Compensation" and have it work for you.

MANIFESTING CHANGE

By Mike Dooley

For those of you who are inclined to get a message in a more direct way, without fanfare or some sort of profound imagery, Mike Dooley may be your man. An international tax accountant turned entrepreneur turned writer and best-selling author of *Notes to the Universe* series, Mike Dooley has a unique voice.

Manifesting Change tackles the metaphysical mechan-

ics underlying the concept of manifestation. He uses stories, exercises, and the introduction of the "Matrix" as teaching tools to help you understand what you really want, the reasons behind it and how to achieve it with the ultimate confidence. Using his own life as proof that you have it in you to change your circumstances, this book is a quick but valuable read.

EXPECTING ADAM

By Martha Beck

Some people do better with stories than with essays as means to understanding things. *Expecting Adam* is an excellent example. Written by Martha Beck, it is a true story of bearing and raising her exceptional child—Adam, a

child born with Down syndrome. It is also the story of her own journey to understanding what really matters in this world and what is mere window dressing.

Despite her two Harvard degrees, she could not fathom why things happened the way they did. It all just didn't seem to make sense. Yet as the story progresses, you become witness to the kindness and the wisdom of the universe as it weaves its magic into a deep knowing that in the end, as in the beginning, all is well.

LIVING BEAUTIFULLY WITH UNCERTAINTY AND CHANGE

By Pema Chodron

Written by an American Buddhist nun in the lineage of

(continued on page 11)





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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**City Expedites Home
 PV Systems**

The City is making it easier to have solar energy systems installed on homes by allowing residents to hire qualified private contractors to conduct building inspections.

The City's PV System Special Inspection Program allows a third-party contractor not associated with anyone who installed a resident's photovoltaic (PV) system to inspect the installation and submit the inspection forms to the City's Department of Planning & Permitting for approval. Residents can seek the private inspection if the City does not complete all required inspections within five working days of the inspection date requested.

The third-party inspections must be done by licensed contractors participating in the program. Residents who hire such contractors will pay fees separate from the normal building permit fee. The third-party fees will be determined by individual contractors.

"Home photovoltaic systems have



become hugely popular, and this new program will give residents the opportunity to expedite approval of the necessary permits," says Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

In addition to providing a convenient option to expedite PV inspections, the program is expected to help speed up approvals of other electrical permits by reducing the number of pending City inspections.

A total of 17 City electrical inspectors are responsible for not only PV inspections but all other building permits that require electrical inspections. This includes new homes, renovations and commercial projects. More than 26,000 building permits with electrical work were issued in 2012.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 6, FILM...)

the CFCA had over 3,000 families in Zamboanga City. He recalls,

"When we were planning the logistics, the community rose out to help with such enthusiasm. Many people stepped out to say 'I would like to help', 'I would like to participate', 'How can I contribute?' They said nobody goes there to do a concert, that this is one time where their community gets to host a concert."

The hard part of putting on a show is showing it without any advertising in a region that is troubled by sporadic violence.

Martin recounts that they got a clearance from city mayor Celso Lobregat to stage a concert. But because of the risk of violence at a public event such as a concert, much of the planning had to be kept a secret, thus no advertisements in radios, posters and television. Only by word of mouth through the CFCA community that went from one barangay or village to another.

By the time the concert was held, there were 10,000 people who showed up for their unadvertised concert in January 2008. Headlining the show were the thirteen young adults Martin recruited, a 30-piece dance group and Joey Ayala, a famous Filipino musician known for combining the sounds of Filipino ethnic music with modern pop music.

The Philippines changed his life

Martin spent a total of five months in the Philippines preparing for the concert and documenting the film. But those

months left an indelible mark on him as a musician. He says of his experience,

"My own songs are about the people I met, the places I went and the lessons I learned from the communities... In the process of making this film, I came to understand music on a whole different level. I met some of the most joyful, generous, hospitable, resilient and courageous people living in very challenging situations. I have never met anyone who handle adversity and challenge with the same level of grace as Filipinos. It is a unique gift that I saw in the families that I met there."

When the filming wrapped up, the film crew traveled back to Zamboanga to show the film to their host community, their sponsored children and their families. The reception to the documentary, according to Martin, was beautiful and the community felt very proud that they got to participate in a concert.

Martin is currently busy traveling and attending screenings of "Rise and Dream". The film has garnered the audience choice award at the 2012 Thin Line Festival in Denton, Texas. It also won the best documentary in the most recent John Paul II International Film Festival. The film is also going to be shown during the Chicago Filipino-American Film Festival and in some other places in the United States.

For ticketing information, visit http://honoluluuseum.org/events/films/13670-rise_and_dream.

TRAVEL

Tips on Ensuring Personal Safety When You Travel

from www.philstar.com

NEW YORK (AP) — Recent high-profile attacks on tourists in India, Brazil, Turkey and Mexico — including rapes — have raised questions about personal safety for overseas travel, especially for women. But frequent travelers and those who work in the industry say a few common-sense precautions can go a long way to ensuring personal safety.

For example, Fly.com vice president Warren Chang didn't hang a "Do not disturb" sign on his hotel room door on a trip to Jordan, because he didn't want to advertise his presence. Cindy Vanhoutte, who works for the vacation rental site HomeAway.com, always checks Google Street View to see what neighborhoods look like before renting there. And Pauline Frommer, co-publisher of Frommer Guidebooks, leaves her jewelry home and tries to dress according to "local norms" — recently wearing long, loose trousers in Morocco.

It's also prudent to check the U.S. State Department website's travel warnings, which track everything from crime to terrorism to natural disasters.

Sometimes travelers simply become careless, forgetting that crime is everywhere. "The cynicisms get left at home," said Alex Puig, a regional security director for International SOS, a medical and security crisis response company. "I was on a train recently in Geneva, Switzerland. It's like Disney World there but an individual had his bag stolen." Puig himself was robbed by a gang in Rio but gave up his wallet and was unharmed. "Be prepared to lose whatever you're carrying," he advised.

Puig says travelers may be less cautious these days because websites and TV shows

have made extreme adventures and off-the-beaten path destinations seem routine. "In the digital world, we can instantaneously show our friends all the cool, weird things we're doing," Puig said. "Our clients are flying to the developing world and going to spots they never would have gone to 10 years ago. In the era of Facebook postings, all the great things you're doing can lead people to bad judgment."

One important tip from Puig: Most crimes occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., so stay indoors or be careful between those hours.

Elizabeth Becker, author of the new book "Overbooked: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism," said sometimes people "do things abroad they would never consider doing at home. They travel to countries where they don't speak the language, have a superficial knowledge of the culture and do little advance preparations beyond booking hotels and buying a tourist guide. My suggestion is to do your homework and spend the money to hire a reputable guide. If possible, make a connection to a local before you visit — either through a trusted friend, family member or colleague. The local can help steer you away from dangerous situations."

Carole Cambata's company Travel Leaders/Greaves Travel in Highland Park, Ill., specializes in travel to India. She said her agency got a few calls after several attacks there on women, including from parents whose daughters are heading there as students or volunteers. Cambata says the safest way for tourists to travel in India is by car and driver rather than public transportation, with the exception of certain trains, and she noted that it's much more affordable to have private cars there than here. She sometimes books female travelers on hotel floors that are female only — both guests and housekeepers.

While nobody is blaming the victims for any of these at-



In this image provided by the family, Sarai Sierra is shown in an undated family photo, in New York. Sierra, a 33-year-old mother of two, went missing while vacationing alone in Istanbul. Her body was discovered Feb. 2, 2013 amid the ancient city walls in low-income district of Sarayburnu in Istanbul. (AP Photo/Family Photo)

tacks, Cambata also advises visitors to avoid going out late alone, to dress conservatively and to stay away from isolated areas. "I wouldn't send a tourist to a dodgy area in New York either," she said.

The recent attacks inspired STA Travel, which specializes in student travel, to post "Tips for Safe Travels" on the STA blog. Advice includes staying in a group, never leaving your belongings unattended, and making sure gadgets and other valuables are out of sight. Young travelers are also encouraged to drink and party "responsibly": Don't ever leave a drink unattended where someone can slip something in it.

Chang advises leaving a spare ATM card and credit card in the hotel safe, so you still have access to cash if you're pickpocketed or robbed. He notes that some travelers ask for hotel rooms above ground floor, to prevent street-level break-ins, but below the sixth floor, so they can easily flee a fire. When he flies, he says, he counts rows between his seat and the emergency exit, in case the lights go out or the cabin fills with smoke.

Nearly 274,000 U.S. students participated in study abroad programs in 2010-11, and horror stories do occasionally surface. The woman gang-raped last month on a public van in Rio was an American student, and three Boston University students died last year in a minivan ac-

cident in New Zealand. A critical incident database for study abroad programs is being launched this year by the Forum on Education Abroad, in order to see where vulnerabilities exist — whether crimes, accidents or illnesses — and prevent future problems. The first data is expected early next year.

Several companies that organize group tours — including Gate 1 Travel, Abercrombie & Kent, Overseas Adventure Travel, and Road Scholar — said they experienced no cancellations and no changed itineraries as a result of the attacks in India and Brazil. They also noted that safety is one reason people — especially women and solo travelers — choose group tours.

"They tell us that our expert local guides allow them to travel comfortably to places where they hesitate to

go on their own due to language and cultural differences," said Pamela Lassers, spokeswoman for the luxury Abercrombie & Kent company.

Peter Greenberg, travel editor of CBS News and author of the "Like a Local" guidebook series, says immersing yourself in local culture is still the best way to travel, but you must use common sense.

"There are places in Ohio and New Jersey I wouldn't frequent, but that doesn't stop me from going to Cincinnati or the Jersey shore," he said. "A quick review of travel crime statistics will reveal the truth: More Americans are injured or killed in accidents in their own bathtubs than are victims of crime or terrorism overseas. The only real downside to going off the beaten track is when you act like a tourist, not a traveler."

HEALTH & FAMILY (from page 8, SUMMER...)

the Tibetan meditation master, Chogyam Trunpa, Living Beautifully remains a favorite.

Pema Chodron speaks of the basic ambiguities of being human — the difficulties, the frailties but also all the power and potential. She introduces three "commitments," guides as to how to bring peace into your life despite the tumultuous circumstances that may rage within it. The first speaks of not causing harm to others. The second tenet takes it even a step further by actually committing to take care of one another, and the third involves embracing the world just as it is — pockmarked, yellow-bellied, and ravaged.

It is a small book with a

big heart. As featured in her overview, a quote by Agnes de Mille becomes very telling: "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark."

SEVEN THOUSAND WAYS TO LISTEN: STAYING CLOSE TO WHAT IS SACRED

By Mark Nepo

For me, this is more a book of poetry than it is one of prose. So beautifully written, the amazing messages on every

(continued on page 14)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Team PNoy Grabs Lead

by Paolo Romero
Tuesday, May 14, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - The administration's Team PNoy took an early lead last night in the official count of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

As of 10:30 p.m., Grace Llamanzares Poe was leading the top 15 with 9,891,318 votes, followed by Loren Legarda, Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Nancy Binay, Sonny Angara, Bam Aquino, Koko Pimentel, Antonio Trillanes, JV Ejercito, Cynthia Villar, Gringo Honasan, Richard Gordon, Juan Miguel Zubiri and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Binay, Ejercito, Honasan, Zubiri and Gordon belong to the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA). The rest belong to Team PNoy.

The Comelec said it might proclaim the first nine winners of the senatorial race by tomorrow night.

Following Magsaysay in the partial tally are Risa Hontiveros, Jack Enrile, Ed Hagedorn, Eddie Villanueva, Jamby Madrigal, Mito Magsaysay, Teddy Casiño, Ernesto Maceda, Margarita Cojuangco, JC de los Reyes, Greco Belgica, Samson Alcantara, Ricardo Penson, Lito David, Ramon Montaño, Marwil Llasos, Christian Seneres and Bal Falcone.

Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. told a press conference yesterday that the Comelec, convening as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), might not be able to proclaim the 12 winning senators if the results are close among those at the tail-end of

the race.

"It's very possible that if there will be close voting among those on the 11th, 12th and 13th slots, the proclamation will be delayed. But we will try to proclaim as many as we can," Brillantes said.

Thirty-three candidates are aspiring for 12 slots that will be vacant at the Senate in June.

In the 2010 elections, the NBOC proclaimed the first nine senators five days after the elections.

The NBOC was set to convene last night to prepare to receive election results from polling precincts nationwide. Ballot counting at the polling precincts was to start after the voting period closed at 7 p.m.

Brillantes said the winners in the local elections, particularly the mayors, vice mayors and councilors, are likely to be proclaimed from 12 to 24 hours after the close of polling precinct.

It will take around 36 hours to proclaim the winners for congressmen and provincial positions, he said.

A total of 44,448 candidates are vying for 18,054 posts, excluding representatives of party-list groups.

CONGRESSIONAL RACE SWEEP

Meanwhile, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. expressed hope yesterday that pro-administration candidates would sweep the congressional race to ensure that the Aquino administration's socio-economic reform efforts would continue.

He said Congress plays a crucial role in implementing socio-economic and political reforms and "a weak hold" on



PNoy voting in Tarlac

the Senate and the House of Representatives would only result in more politicking that would distract the nation from the task at hand, which is to continue reforms, ensure growth, and promote stability in the country.

"We need to help the President continue his strong and moral leadership in the last three years of his term," Belmonte said.

Meanwhile, Team PNoy senatorial candidate Juan Edgardo Angara said he and his supporters would remain vigilant until the last vote is counted.

He said even if the official 90-day campaign period has ended, he will not rest and closely monitor developments in the elections.

After voting at the Suklayin Elementary School in

Barangay Suklayin, Baler, Aurora along with his father, Sen. Edgardo Angara, he headed back to Manila.

FRIENDLY SENATE

A "friendly" Senate looms if a majority of the candidates of the administration coalition Team PNoy are elected.

"The alignments are going to be clear once the winning bets are known. The administration is keen to have a friendly Senate in June, unlike in the current Congress where the administration had to slug it out to pass some key measures," a source told The STAR.

The Senate presidency will depend on the number of senators allied with either the Liberal Party (LP) coalition or the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) who will be elected.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile is assured of the support of Senators Vicente Sotto and Jinggoy Estrada. The so-called Enrile bloc will retain a loyal member if Sen. Gregorio Honasan is re-elected.

The victory of UNA candidates, particularly Enrile's son, Jack, and Jinggoy's brother JV Ejercito or former senators Richard Gordon, Migz Zubiri or Nancy Binay, will bolster

the possibility of retaining Enrile as Senate president.

The victory of senatorial bets allied with the LP, including Senators Francis Escudero, Loren Legarda, Alan Peter Cayetano and neophytes Grace Poe, Bam Aquino and Cynthia Villar, will be critical for the administration to get a hold of the Senate presidency.

Possible contenders include LP campaign manager Sen. Franklin Drilon and Cayetano, who is said to be keen on topping the senatorial elections.

Sources said the support of the Nacionalista Party bloc headed by outgoing Sen. Manny Villar is the game changer in the Senate presidency race. Apart from the Villars, the Cayetano siblings, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Sen. Bongbong Marcos are with the NP bloc.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. of Lakas-CMD is allied with NP in Cavite.

Under the salary standardization law, the new batch of senators will get a P90,000 monthly salary and P200-million Priority Development Assistance Fund, commonly known as pork barrel, every year. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Kauai Philippine Cultural Center Gets \$1.5 Million Grant from State

Gov. Neil Abercrombie presented a \$1.5 million check to Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. and representatives of the nonprofit Kauai Philippine Cultural Center to help construct the new 30,000 square foot facility.

"The Kauai Philippine Cultural Center will benefit the entire community as a central venue for events and activities, celebrating the contributions of the Filipino community on Kauai and across the islands," says Gov. Abercrombie. "The center will also highlight Hawaii's many ethnic communities and bridge Kauai's multi-cultural heritage and history for both residents and visitors."

Last month, Abercrombie

informed Kauai officials about the release of the funds, which were appropriated by the 2012 Legislature. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to expediting capital improvement investments like the cultural center that will serve to further stimulate the economy and generate local jobs while benefiting community members.

"The Board of Directors of the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center expresses its thanks to Governor Abercrombie, his administration and legislators for supporting this worthwhile project," says Lester Calipjo, president of the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center. "We are a step closer to our dream becoming reality."

The Kauai Philippine

Cultural Center is a Lihue-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It was established in 2011 with the mission "to provide, promote and enhance cultural, economic educational training and social programs as well as cultural exchange in a multi-ethnic environment."

The organization has leased 3.491 acres in Puhii from the County of Kauai for 99 years, with an annual lease payment of \$1 per year. Slated for completion in 2016, the center will consist of a classroom, ballroom, office space, bathrooms and a small kitchen.

For more information about the center, visit www.kauaiphilippinecultural-center.org.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

On line with its goal of shifting the focus of immigration from family-based to skills-based, the Senate comprehensive reform bill proposes a number of major changes in the current family-based preference system.

The annual limit of family-based immigrant visas will be reduced from 226,000 to 161,000. The per country cap will rise from 7% to 15%.

The bill will eliminate the 4th preference category for brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens and limit the 3rd preference category to married sons and daughters who are under 31. The changes will take ef-

Major Changes in Family Immigration Proposed in Senate Bill

fect after the bill is passed so that petitions filed before that will continue to be processed. U.S. citizens should consider filing their petitions for these relatives now.

Under the current system, the 4th preference category is allocated 65,000 annual visa numbers. As of November 2012, the Department of State recorded 2,873,114 applicants, including 188,521 Filipinos, on the waiting list.

The 3rd preference category on the other hand with current annual allocation of 23,400 has a waiting list of over 830,000 applicants. The bill will allocate 25% of the worldwide level for this scaled-back category.

The first preference category for the unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens will be retained. This category has a waiting list of 288,000

and has an annual allocation of 23,400. Under the bill, it will have 35% of the worldwide allotment.

Unmarried sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents who are classified under the F2B preference category will be allocated 40% of the worldwide level.

Spouses and children of lawful permanent residents currently under the F2A category will be upgraded to the immediate relative category and would not therefore be subject to visa number limitation. Under that category they would be allowed to adjust their status even if they have overstayed or worked without authorization. Under the current system, only the spouse, unmarried children and parents of U.S. citizens have this benefit.

Derivative beneficiaries of

immediate relatives applying for green card will be allowed to immigrate with their parents unlike now where they have to be petitioned separately under a different category. This will prevent separation of the children from their parents.

The bill will also benefit the unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens under 31 and unmarried adult sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents who are beneficiaries of approved family-based petitions. They will be eligible for V visas to enable them to live and work in the U.S. while waiting for their priority dates to become current.

Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens and sons and daughters of U.S. citizens over 31 years will also be eligible but they will not be authorized to work and their admission may not

exceed 60 days per year.

Other new provisions under the bill include raising the age of a stepchild from 18 to 21 for purposes of allowing sponsorship by the stepparent; raising the age requirement for adopted child from 16 to 18; allowing aged-out children to retain the priority dates of the original petition of their parents; and permitting lawful permanent residents to file for a fiance petition.

The current rules pertaining to termination or reinstatement of registration for an immigrant visa, retention of priority dates, automatic conversion of visa petitions, petition for orphans and widows and inadmissibility waivers will be modified.

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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

GLOBAL NEWS

GMA Life TV Celebrates 5 Years for Int'l Filipino Lifestyle Channel

GMA Life TV, the first international Filipino lifestyle channel by GMA International, is commemorating five years of celebrating the best in Pinoy lifestyle with a vibrant campaign representing all the wonderful things the channel is known for.

For the past five years, GMA Life TV has been a leading source of informative and inspiring Filipino lifestyle shows for all Filipinos. To celebrate this important milestone, GMA Life TV has tapped six of the Network's most sought after stars—Alden Richards, Mikael Daez, Rocco Nacino, Maxene Magalona, Bela Padilla and Louise Delos Reyes—to be the faces of the channel for its GMA Life TV: Fly High @ Five anniversary campaign. As the GMA Life TV VJs, they will take turns in introducing each program, lending their unique and col-



orful personalities.

“Highlighting the distinct and exceptional traits of the Pinoy lifestyle has ever been the primary goal of GMA Life TV,” says Joseph T. Francia, GMA vice president and head of international operations. “We want to make things even more exciting as we present the GMA Life TV VJs, who equally embody the best traits of the channel—being fun, hip, original and inspirational.”

GMA Life TV prides itself as the first and only Filipino lifestyle channel abroad to air English-dubbed Filipino drama series and the only Filipino channel offering classic black and white Pinoy

films. In the coming months, GMA Life TV will premiere its highly-anticipated documentary series “Home is Where the Heart Is,” which takes a peek into the homes of Filipinos living abroad.

The channel will further diversify its content through the launch of new programs created by the country's pioneer publisher of glossy magazines, One Mega Group. Such programs include a new fashion/reality program, a cooking show and also a home design show that fit right into the channel's diverse mix of program genres focusing on home, fashion, food, travel, drama and reality.

GMA Life TV has an estimated one million viewers from all over the world. It will launch its pay-TV system in the Asia-Pacific Region this year.

For more information on the channel, go online to: www.gmanetwork.com/international.

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Intayon Makiramrambak Ken Makitinnakunaynay

iti pundo para kadagiti estudiante a maikari a maikkan iti makuna nga scholarship.

Mayo 19, 2013 ti maur-urnos met a pannaka-Adopt a Park a proyekto met laeng iti OFCC. Ammotayon nga addan dagiti dadduma a proyekto iti kastoy umasping a community service kas iti Adopt a Hwy, Feeding the Homeless, Hawaii Food Bank ken dadduma pay, ngem itoy a tawen iti liderato ni Jean Jeremiah, adda maited a gunggona [grant] iti pannakaadaptar ti Neal Blaisdell Park, Pearl City. Daytoy a park ti maysa kadagiti paborito dagiti agpipiknik, agmimiting, agpunsion ken dadduma pay a panagtitiyon. Umuna ken kangrunaan a rason, adda iti sentro, asideg ti daladal ti lugan aglalo ti Bus System, asideg pay dagiti paggatangan.

Hunio 1, 2013 maangay met ti Miss Oahu Filipina Scholarship Pageant iti Ala Moana Hotel. Ni Armi Oliver Farinas, dati a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina ken agdama a presidente ti Magsingal Associa-

tion of Hawaii ti mangiturong itoy a proyekto.

Hunio 9, 2013 ti panakaangay ti OFCC kombensyon iti Philippine Consulate General Social Hall. Mangrugi ti rehistrasion dagiti delegado iti alas otso aginggana iti alas dies ti bigat. Mangrugi ti opisial a panakalukat ti kombensyon. Agreporrtto dagiti nadumaduma nga opisial ken pangulo ti komite. Maangay ti eleksion kalpasan ti pangngaldaw nga agsarita dagiti madutokan nga agsarita. Ni Jake Manegdeg ti pangulo ti kombensyon, kaduana dagiti sumagmamano a boluntario. Tapno makapagdelegado ken makabotos, nasken a kamengka iti gunglom a kameng iti OFCC. silulukat dagiti puesto a kinapresidente bise, sekretaria, katulongan, tesorera, katulongan ken auditor. Uppat met ti para direktor nga agtakem iti dua a tawen. Isubmitir dagiti nasken a porma ti nominasion, panagpabaro ti panagkameng, lista ken bayad a

\$50.00 ti maysa a delegado. Tema ti kombensyon: Commitment. Action. Responsibility. Excellence [C.A.R.E] Agdama nga opisial ti OFCC da Jean Jeremiah, presidente, Dr. Ariel Agcaoili, umuna a bise; Atty. Rhoda Alvarez, maikadua a bise; Dr. Julius Soria, sekretario; Loida Yamamoto, kadua a sekretaria; Vanessa Pulido, tesorera; Rose Aquino, kadua a tesorera; Cleo Bala, auditor.

Direktor: Baybee Hufana

Ablan, Eddie Bueno, Amelia Cabatu, Maggie Domingo, Edith Gudoy, Rossi Patton, Davelyn Quijano, Dr. Ignacio Torres.

Maangay met ti kombensyon ti UFCH intono Agosto 2,3,4 idiaiy Kauai.

Agosto 31, 2013 ti panangselebrar ti Vigan Association of Hawaii & Associates ti maikatallopulo nga anibersario ti pannakabungayna idi 1983. Maangay ti selebrasion iti Ala Moana Hotel. Ni Tessie Aganon ti agdama a presidente, ni Jun Abinsay ti founding president.

Maawiskayo no adda wayayo k a d a g i t i pasken a pasungaden ni Kailian iti Hawaii. Social and Civic duties and responsibilities kunada man, appo. Adda kenkan ti desision.

Kaaduan a pasken ket maangay iti buko ti lawas kas iti Biernes, Sabado ken Domingo. Ngem no dadduma, uray ania man kaadagiti aldaw ti lawas ket madakamat payen. Kasta, Kaili, ti biagtayon ditoy Hawaii. Kanigid-kanawan, di payen ammo no sadino ti unaen wenno ipamaysa a papanan.

Mayo 16, 2013 ti nailatang a OFCC Golf Tournament iti Kapolei Golf Course. Da Eddie Agas, Sr. ken Jun Abinsay ti mangiturong itoy a fundraising. Proyekto ti OFCC daytoy a pamataudan

HEALTH & FAMILY (from page 11, SUMMER...)

page seem almost more a bonus than the core. Mark Nepo speaks of three things: the work of being, the work of being human, and the work of love.

His own personal story is filled with cancer, with loss, with discovery. He talks about the lost art of listening, of hearing — a physical ability that has begun to deteriorate within his own body. This is a book written with such humility and such wonder at the magnificence of life and the light each soul can bring into the world.

Listen to his dedication at the beginning of the book:

I didn't know when I began this book on listening that my hearing was already

breaking down. It's been disorienting and yet freeing. I only know that my need to listen more deeply has been answered with an undoing that has made me listen with my eyes, my heart, my skin. Now I wonder softly: Does a plant listen by breaking ground? Does sand listen by accepting the waves it can never escape? And how do stubborn souls like us listen?

I feel like a painter who, after mastering certain brushes over the years, has come to the end of brushes; who in an effort to get closer to the light has thrown his brushes into the fire, to ignite more light. I am left finally to paint with my hands. I hope there is something helpful here.

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UFCH 23RD MS. HAWAII FILIPINA • May 24, 2013, 6:00 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Jenny Quezon @ pr.ufch@gmail.com

UNITED PANGASINAN OF HAWAII 45TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE • May 25, 2013 • Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom • Contact: Dr. Cely Villareal, (808) 778-2481 or (808) 689-4911

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL CONVENTION • June 9, 2013, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM • Philippine Consulate General Social Hall • Contact: Jake Manegdeg @524-6993; Jean Jeremiah @ 387-5481; Amado Yoro@699-9814

21ST UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA (USTMAAA) GRAND REUNION AND MEDICAL CONVENTION • June 26-30, 2013, • Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort • Contact: (248) 626-2878 or 808-680-0558

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MAINLAND NEWS

Pentagon Report: NKorea Moving Toward Nuke Missile

by Robert Bums (AP)
Thursday, May 3, 2013

WASHINGTON — North Korea "will move closer" to its announced goal of being able to strike the U.S. with a nuclear-armed missile if it keeps investing in tests of nuclear and missile technology, the Pentagon said Thursday in a report to Congress.

The unclassified version of the report, which was required by a 2012 law, offered no estimate of when North Korea might achieve that capability. It said the pace of progress will depend in part on how many resources are invested.

The report fits an established U.S. intelligence picture of North Korea making an enormous effort to become a nuclear power and of an economically poor country directing a disproportionate amount of resources to its military.

Much about North Korea is a mystery to Western intelligence agencies, including the intentions of its leader, Kim Jong Un, who came to power after his father, Kim Jong Il, died in December 2011. The Pentagon report said the U.S. foresees little change in North Korea's key strategic aims, which it said to include using "coercive diplomacy" to compel acceptance of its security interests, as well as developing a nuclear arsenal and undermining of the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

"We anticipate these strategic goals will be consistent under North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un," it said.

U.S. intelligence agencies are not fully in agreement on how far North Korea has advanced in its effort to make a nuclear weapon small enough to fit atop a ballistic missile. In April, a U.S. congressman disclosed that the Defense Intelligence Agency believes with "moderate confidence" that the North could de-

liver a nuclear weapon by ballistic missile but with "low reliability." The DIA assessment did not mention the potential range of such a strike.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, the top U.S. intelligence official, said shortly after the DIA assessment was made public that its conclusion was not shared by other intelligence agencies. Clapper said North Korea has made progress but has not "fully developed, tested or demonstrated the full range of capabilities necessary for a nuclear-armed missile."

In its report Thursday, the Pentagon made no mention of the DIA report.

The Pentagon asserted that North Korea wants to leverage the perception that it poses a nuclear threat in order to counter technologically superior forces. South Korea, which does not have nuclear weapons, has a modern military that benefits greatly from a close alliance with the U.S. There are about 28,500 American troops based in the South.

The Pentagon report noted that North Korea has recently showcased its advances in missile technology, including an April 2012 parading of a new road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile that the Pentagon says has not been flight tested.

"These advances in ballistic missile delivery systems, coupled with developments in nuclear technology ... are in line with North Korea's stated objective of being able to strike the U.S. homeland," the report said.

After a February 2013 nuclear test, North Korea made what the Pentagon called "authori-



tative public announcements" of its desire to field nuclear-armed missiles with sufficient range to attack targets in the United States.

"North Korea will move closer to this goal, as well as increase the threat it poses to U.S. forces and allies in the region, if it continues testing and devoting scarce regime resources to these programs," the report said.

Earlier this year, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a series of bellicose threats to attack South Korea, Japan or the United States with nuclear weapons, sparking tough rhetoric in return. In response, the Pentagon in April announced plans to beef up its missile defenses by deploying 14 additional missile interceptors at a military base in Alaska.

Thursday's Pentagon report said the North's work on a space-launch vehicle has contributed heavily to its effort to build a missile capable

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of reaching the U.S. with a nuclear warhead. That work was highlighted by the launch of a satellite into space last December.

But it added that the North has yet to test a re-entry vehicle, without which it cannot deliver a warhead to a target. A workable re-entry vehicle is necessary to get a warhead back into Earth's atmosphere with protection against severe heating.

The report also projected that North Korea under Kim will stick to its current strategic priorities, including developing nuclear weapons to deter any attack from outside powers and trying to undermine the alliance between the United States and South Korea. (www.philstar.com)

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