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◆ SEPTEMBER 5, 2015 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Health Fairs Fill Crucial Role

Health fairs are one of the most recognizable and ubiquitous forms of community-based health promotions in the U.S. and Hawaii. These events are strictly voluntary and offer health education and medical screenings at little or no cost. Most fairs offer free services that measure a person's height, weight, blood pressure, vision and risk for anemia. Others include tests for blood chemistry, oral screenings, podiatry exams, hearing tests and glaucoma screenings. Larger health fairs offer screenings for hypertension, cholesterol, skin cancer and diabetes.

Smaller health fairs, such as those that are repeatedly hosted by members of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) and other grassroots organizations, play a key role in meeting the needs of Hawaii's underserved demographic and ethnic groups like immigrants, senior citizens, the medically uninsured and low-income families who typically have limited access to health care. For these at-risk groups, the various screenings and advice on diet, lifestyle and other key topics are the only such services they receive. And since the health fairs are held in the community and staffed by volunteer medical professionals who are culturally and linguistically in tune with attendees, many of the common barriers at a typical medical office are eliminated. In short, health fairs empower attendees to take charge of their health, which in turn benefits the entire community.

Attendees are not the only ones to benefit. Those volunteers who conduct the medical screenings have an opportunity to publicize their clinical services and network with community organizations. Medical students, residents and ancillary trainees benefit from the opportunity for service education, mentoring from more senior clinicians and working in multi-disciplinary teams.

A caveat to bear in mind is that while health fairs have the ability to effectively reach a particular demographic and identify those at risk for disease, they should not be used as a substitute for seeking regular comprehensive care with a primary care physician. Personalized follow-up counseling or calls at the conclusion of these health fairs will also help to improve outcomes by setting goals, evaluating progress and providing referrals to appropriate medical care.

Ashley Madison Data Leak Proves Cheaters Don't Win

Recent leaks of personal and financial information of some 37 million subscribers of the adulterous website Ashley Madison sent shockwaves across the nation and the world. The news was particularly embarrassing for a horde of high ranking federal government employees and military personnel who were paying customers of the Canadian-based website which is marketed to facilitate extramarital affairs and whose slogan is "Life is short. Have an affair."

Registered users also came from the Philippines with the majority concentrated in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Ads promoting the website were launched in the Philippines in late 2014 and promptly netted up to 3,000 registered users, much to the dismay of church and government officials. Most Filipinos would click their tongues at those whose names were released but let's also remember that in a largely Roman Catholic nation like the Philippines where divorce is a no-no and Filipinos vocally support family and conservative values, many men are known to have mistresses.

The fallout from the Ashley Madison data breach will be substantial as there have already been unconfirmed reports of

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

ether-wise, it's been a rough past few weeks. We've dodged several hurricanes with two more—Ignacio and Jimena—headed here later this week, sloshed through



flash floods and endured stifling humidity. Now that we're about halfway through the hurricane and stronger than normal El Niño season, it would be to your advantage to attend the "Get Ready Ewa Beach" 5th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 5th at Ewa Makai Middle School from 9 am to 1 pm. You don't have to be an Ewa or Ewa Beach resident to attend. Those who do will learn about tools, products and essential information on how to be more prepared for natural and man-made emergencies.

Our cover story for this issue is about Doctors-On-Stage's newest musical called "Journey" which is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th at the FilCom Center Ballroom from 6 pm to 8 pm. Cast members are Filipino physicians with a talent for the big stage and bright lights. Proceeds from "Journey" will benefit the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), which is staffed by volunteer physicians and medical personnel and geared towards meeting the health needs of Oahu's poorest of the poor.

In a two-for-one special, many of the same cast members of "Journey" will be volunteering at the First Annual Leeward Community Health Fair which is that same day at the Sonido-Alquero Building located a few blocks away at the corner of Farrington Highway and Waipahu Depot Road from 10 am to 4 pm. As far as healthcare is concerned, there is nothing quite as good as a free community health fair. And few do it as well, year in and year out, as a group of dedicated and caring Filipino doctors. Please turn to page 4 for ticket information and more about "Journey" as well as the First Annual Leeward Community Health Fair. Please show your support to BCWW by attending their 2 events on September 20, 2015.

In other news, congratulations to Group Builders, Inc. President Lito Alcantra, winner of the 2015 Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice. He joins a growing list of distinguished winners of this prestigious award presented by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter in honor of the Philippines' national hero. Please turn to page 9 for more on this successful businessman and philanthropist.

That's all for now. Please take some time to read the other informative columns and news stories that we have for you in this issue. And as always, we are grateful for your continued support. If you have a story idea, suggestion or concern to share, please email it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

several suicides. Many promising careers and reputations will be also ruined, families destroyed and children negatively impacted. Courtrooms across the nation in the coming months could very well see a flood of divorce cases that are bound to further undermine marriage in the U.S., an institution which is already under fire.

We hope that the offenders are caught and brought to justice, since computer hacking is a form of cybercrime that can result in jail time as well as a hefty fine. Sadly, the leak shows that no matter how hard government or private companies try to prevent internet fraud, if hackers really want in, they will find a way.

It is also quite possible that some of the would-be cheaters simply registered but never followed through on the act. Nevertheless, it's a rather painful lesson to learn for those who were embarrassed in a very public way. But as the Good Book says, "What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs." Wise words of advice for all to live by.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Anchor, Baby? The GOP is Just Starting

Anchor baby? It has nothing to do with drunken sailors, or the illegitimate love child of blonde Fox News readers.

But you are hearing correctly. The political discourse is all about “anchor babies.” And frankly, all that conservative anchor baby talk is making me feel, a little, how shall we say, randy.

Doesn't it make you just want to cross a border, any one will do, and have a baby? It will take nine months and some planning.

But next time your pregnant cousin from Cebu wants to visit you, make sure she's in her 9th month. And then not only will she have a baby. She will have an American. That is the crux of all that anchor baby talk.

In America, we believe in the centuries old belief of birthright citizenship. If you are born on this soil, you are an American. The nationalities of your mom and dad don't mat-

ter. They have nothing to do with anything.

Where were you born? In Hawaii, the 50th state of the Union? Last I checked, there was a star on the flag for that. And that's all it takes. That's the controversy.

The idea of “settled law” that goes back to British Common Law, which isn't good enough for Donald Trump. Trump wishes you have your babies at home, far from him and not where he's a taxpayer at least. Because heaven forbid, you might require any public health services. Or anything else from the government.

If you haven't noticed, this is the ideological lunacy of all the conservative, small government types. They enter politics so they can make government less effective and less responsive. In their minds, that's the best kind of government. Small government that costs less.

Now does that make sense—an anti-government person who wants to be in government? And spoil it for the rest of us? But people really do need services. And these small government folks have an answer for that—privatization.

Everything public run by government can be run just as

badly in the for-profit world, especially if the profits are being made by some politician's buddy. And of course, that's what happens.

In the Philippines, it's not only blatant, but an art form. In America, it's just conservative politics as usual, where the millionaires in office reward their millionaire high donor pals with private contracts to perform services to the public.

Prisons. Maintenance. Even retirement benefits. If you have a 401K instead of a pension plan, then you should know how we were all sold on the idea of freedom and greed.

Employers used to have to provide pensions for retirement as part of employment. A defined benefit. But because that's a cost to employers, the private ones began to shift the onus to the worker. 401Ks are now our own deal. Employers would sweeten it a bit with matching funds. But few companies still do that anymore.

So everyone's shifted over, which is great if you save and picked some safe investments.

But the market just dropped

nearly 600 points last week. If you felt the sting, well, tough.

That's privatization for you. You can cry individually. With all the others who no longer have pensions. So anchor babies, and public benefits, are just a start.

Among the GOP candidates, we'll likely hear about cutting Social Security, health care, welfare, you name it. We'll hear more talk about “making government” more efficient. And of course, Trump will brag about how he has run mega companies. And then when someone mentions how he's also gone bankrupt a time or two, he will just comment how he used the available laws that protect rich corporate types

and shrug it off.

That's the problem with the corporate conservative mindset. Government can't and shouldn't be run as a business. Government is more than just a place where they fly flags. It's the structure in society that takes care of real human beings, real people. Change that and you change society. One that's more about money, with a whole lot less aloha.

But if they can get you on anchor babies, the rest is easy.

EMIL GUILLERMO served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award winning journalist, he was the first Filipino to host a national news program when he hosted NPR's “All Things Considered.” He lives in Northern California.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Funeral Services for Retired Educator

Retired public school educator Nick E. Lugmao recently passed away in Waipahu at the age of 95.

Born in the Philippines, Lugmao received his Bachelor's degree in education from the University of the East and the National Teachers College. He arrived in Hawaii with his family in 1969 and later taught math at Makakilo Elementary, Ilima Intermediate and Campbell High School. He was also a long time employee of Sears Roebuck.

Family and friends remember Lugmao as a loving, industrious and generous man who remained active during retirement with



Mr. Nick Lugmao

his tax preparation business. Lugmao is survived by wife Annie; daughters Rosalie and Sonia; sons Edmer and Ericson; grandchildren Rozelle, Brandon, Nicky, PJ, Alyssa, AJ, Aaron and Destanae; nephews Rudy, Ador and Danny; nieces Araceli and Dita and many other nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives in Hawaii and the Philippines.

His Vigil Service is scheduled for September 4, 2015 at Mililani Mortuary Makai Chapel, with visitation at 5:30 pm and services at 6:30 pm. The Second Day Service is September 5, 2015 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Kalihi, with visitation at 9 am, mass at 9:45 am and burial at 11 am at the Valley of the Temples.

ABOUT THE COVER: Cast members of “Journey” are dressed in wilderness safari gear to portray the theme of encountering the pitfalls of life that come our way. We must remain on the trail and follow our guide if we are to survive the expedition.

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COVER STORY



Photography by Tim LLENA

Doctors-On-Stage to Perform New Musical 'Journey'

by Dennis Galolo

Journey," a new musical presentation by Doctors-On-Stage, will be performed at the Filipino Community Center Ballroom in Waipahu on Sunday, September 20, 2015 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Tickets for the show are \$30 and are available by calling 841-4195, 671-3911, 1-888-674-7624 or by asking your doctor. For inquiries, send an email to: pmahinfo@gmail.com.

"Journey" is the sixth major musical production by Doctors-On-Stage. The group is comprised of physicians, medical professionals and friends who banded together several years ago under the leadership of Dr. Char-

lie Sonido. Doctors-On-Stage's previous five productions were entitled "Believe: In Praise of Faith & Freedom," "Love Stories," "In Tune With War and Peace," "Rainbow Connection," and "Butterflies and Kisses."

Their most recent musical, "Believe" was performed at the Kroc Center in Ewa Beach in October 2012 and was well-received by audiences. The theme of "Believe" focused on how faith-based solutions can help people to better deal with personal and social problems. The musical also demonstrated the role of the Scriptures in revealing the truths about people and reminded audiences how faith serves as a reliable guide to an ethical and moral life.

"Journey" promises to be just as good as the previous five productions. According to artistic director J.P. Orias, the musical focuses around the circle of life—from death to rebirth...and everything in-between.

"The songs will be about conflicts in life, along with happiness, problems and solutions," says Orias. "The finale will be much like the 'Lion King' with the cast in full-costume. I don't want to give too much away, because we are sure that the audiences will really enjoy themselves."

Meet the Cast

Doctors-On-Stage is an all-amateur, unpaid group of performers showcasing the artistic talents of Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) members. "Journey" is a low-budget production and most of the costumes used by performers are borne by them or loaned from other people.

"Journey" has a total of 20 cast members consisting primarily of physicians, family members and a few guests. One cast member is lead singer Luisa Corpuz, a University of Santo Tomas (UST) graduate and new arrival to Hawaii from Iowa. She joined an intensive preceptorship with Waipahu-based physician Dr. Charlie Sonido and is currently applying for residency training.

Corpuz jumped at the opportunity to perform in "Journey" alongside several of the same performers at PMAH's Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference in May 2015.

"I wanted to perform with this wonderful group again," she says. "It's a great feeling to be a part of this family that shares the same passion for music as I do. It's also for a great cause and I look forward to sharing my love of singing with the rest of the Filipino community here in Hawaii."

"Everyone, regardless of age, will be able to relate to the characters and be moved by the story since we are all brothers and sisters in this journey of life."

Corpuz sets aside time each day to practice the songs and spends a few hours daily practicing with her fellow cast members. Her background in the performing arts is tailor-made for the position. She began dancing ballet, tap and jazz at the tender age of three and continued through high school. She also participated in musicals from grade six through high school. As for vocal performances, Corpuz was a member of an *a cappella* choir that sang for Pope John Paul II—an opportunity that she refers to a "once in a lifetime chance." She also graduated from college with a minor in vocal performance and served as president of UST's Medical Glee Club during medical school.

Another talented cast member is Dr. Jean Khara Casillan, a *cum laude* graduate of UST and a faculty member of its Medicine and Surgery Department. Casillan is also fond of the performing arts, particularly dancing, singing and playing musical instruments. She was a member of the Terpsichorean Circle, the official dance troupe of her medical school. She also joined several musical bands performing as the lead singer and guitarist at various faculty occasions.

"I chose to join the production because it is a privilege for me to contribute to the community of Filipino doctors in Hawaii through my God-given talents," she says. "The musical play is for a noble cause and I am honored to be part of something beautiful and meaningful."

Fellow cast member Dr. (continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, DOCTORS)

Nicanor Joaquin, who has been with Doctors-On-Stage for the past 13 years, says rehearsals for "Journey" are usually after office hours, three to four times a week. Some hard-working physicians come straight from surgery to practices.

Dr. Joaquin comes from a musically-inclined family and was a member of the Pamana Singers during the late 1990s and the Silangan Singers in the late 2000s. He joined Doctors-On-Stage for the camaraderie and opportunity to help raise funds for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW)—a nonprofit, free clinic that provides free medical and dental services to immigrants and underserved residents of all ethnicities who do not have medical insurance.

An outreach project of the PMAH, BCCW's clinic is staffed by volunteer physicians of various specialties, as well as dentists, nurses and other medical professionals who generously donate their time, skills and resources. On average, about 100-120 patients are seen and treated each month. BCWW also conducts outreach programs such as community health fairs and medical missions on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The big hearts of these volunteers have impacted thousands of lives for the better.

"The clinic helps many needy immigrants who are not just Filipinos but also other ethnicities," says clinic director Dr. Arnold Villafuerte. "Funds raised by 'Journey' will help to support BCWW's mission to assist needy indigent immigrants." For cast member Dr. Nestor Del Rosario, Doctors-On-Stage provides a creative and enjoyable outlet from the stress of being a physician. He says "Journey" is an expression of the performers' feelings about life and the travails they undergo. He says attendees will be in for a treat.

"Instead of their doctor, they will see a different person—hopefully an artistic entertainer that they can appreciate," says Dr. Del Rosario.

Dr. Benilda Luz-Llena says Doctors-On-Stage's musicals are an effective stress relief from the demands of a busy medical practice and an opportunity to make new friends with fellow performers. She also encourages Filipinos to make plans to see "Journey."



"Journey" cast members enjoy a private get-together after rehearsals.

"This show is entertaining and Broadway caliber," she says. "You will see the artistic talents of these doctors that you cannot otherwise see when you are a patient at their clinics."

Long-time favorites Drs. Sorbella Guillermo and Ross Simafranca are joining the show despite their hectic clinic schedules.

The cast of "Journey" includes: Khara Casillan, MD; Krystal C. Cervantes, MD; Luisa Corpuz, MD; Carol Davide, MD; Nestor Del Rosario, MD; Jill Desquitado, MD; Jay Flores, DPT; Cielo Guillermo, MD; Maja Blanco Lingad, MD; Anna Lo, MD; Jocelyn Lorenzo, MD; Benilda Luz-Llena, MD; Nicanor Joaquin, MD; Mike Mendoza, MD; Angela Ong, MD; Alex Pisig, MD; Therese Posas, MD; Abigail C. Santos, MD; Ross Simafranca, MD; and Eileen Jill Ramos, MD. Special participant is saxophone artist Reggie Padilla.

A small army of volunteers will be working quietly behind the scenes. The list includes Nelson Sonido and Peter Sarmiento (set production); Nic Ramirez (sounds and lights); Dory Villafuerte (rehearsals); Tim Llena (photography); Chona Sonido (public relations); Felino Tubera (writer); Richard Kua, MD (script); Philip Amer Kelley (choreography); Luisa Corpuz, MD (music researcher); Jay Flores, DPT (music coordinator); Monette Forte (music director); JP Orias (artistic director); and Charlie Sonido, MD (producer/concept).

Leeward Community Health Fair

In a two-for-one special, many of these same cast member physicians will be participating in the First Annual Leeward

Community Health Fair to be held at the Sonido-Alquero Building (formerly American Savings Bank) at the corner of Farrington Highway and Waipahu Depot Road, from 10 am to 4 pm.

BCCW typically works in conjunction with the popular Filipino Fiesta and Parade for a community health fair but the clinic this year decided to move the health fair to a new venue—in the heart of Waipahu and its considerably large Filipino population.

Dr. Joaquin says this year's health fair is the first ever to be held in the Leeward area.

"In the past, we have held health fairs in Kalihi and Waianae, so we're excited with the new location and venue," he says. "We are expecting about 5,000 attendees."

The principal sponsors for the Leeward Community Health Fair are Hawaii Filipino Healthcare, the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, Consuelo Foundation and Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

Organizers say attendees will be able to relax, play Bingo and watch doctors as well as a doctor and professional chef whip up their version of classic and healthy recipes for the entire family to enjoy. And of course, attendees will be able to sample these delicious dishes. There will be lots of fabulous giveaways with grand raffle prizes to include round trip tickets to the Philippines and Las Vegas..

The Leeward Community Health Fair will offer free screenings and consultations on:

- First aid
- Ask-a-Doctor
- Blood pressure
- Glucose Testing
- Curbside consultation



Coro Pilipino will be guest performers at Doctors-On-Stage's musical "Journey" on September 20th at the FilCom Center.

- Diabetes
- Diabetic eye check-up
- Healthful diet
- Optometry
- Osteoporosis screening
- Massage therapy
- Spirometry
- Dental

These screenings and related services will be offered at no charge. On-the-spot spirometry testing will be available for patients with pulmonary problems, along with osteoporosis screening for those who want their bone mineral density measured. There will be free flu shots given to children and adults.

The idea for a health fair for the Filipino community came about during planning efforts for the 1998 Filipino Fiesta. Organizers wanted an event that would remind Filipinos of the importance of keeping themselves healthy and maintaining an active lifestyle.

"Things just rolled on from that point on," says Dr. Sonido. "Once the word went out, more volunteer physicians, nurses and other medical professions volunteered their services. We wouldn't be able to accomplish all what we've done these years without them."

Health fairs in general pres-

ent a unique opportunity for underserved patients to meet doctors on their turf—and away from the formal sterility of a physician's office. Patients are often more relaxed in meeting doctors who seem to be just another member of the community. And patients who feel more at ease open up and ask questions they may not normally do when at the doctor's office.

"The Leeward Health Fair will be a great opportunity for patients to ask questions about any medical concern or topic," says Dr. Sonido. "Patients don't always talk freely in the office, so the health fair will provide a great forum where those questions can be answered."

In addition, individuals may be comforted by knowing others in the group share the same concerns that they may have particularly when general health concerns are addressed in a relaxed, group setting.

For physicians, the health fairs are enjoyable.

Health fairs are fun," says Dr. Sonido. "There is a sense of personal fulfillment when you spend an entire day doing something worthwhile for others. Those who volunteer at a health fair don't regret it."

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Knights of Rizal Holds 5th Gala Award

By Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.

The Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter held its 5th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice Gala on August 29, 2015 at the Filipino Community Center. Anacleto "Lito" Alcantra, President of Group Builders Inc., was the recipient of the 2015 Award.

The Knights of Rizal is an international fraternity of individuals who uphold the ideas and teachings of the Philippines' national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. It was established in 1916 in Manila and chartered by Philippine Republic Act 646 in 1951. The local Hawaii chapter was organized in 1971 and its current commander is Sir Mario Palma, KCR.

Jose P. Rizal Award

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice is given annually by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter to a person who exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Rizal, a polymath who excelled in many fields. Rizal is known for his literary works, keen scientific mind, devotion to an educated citizenry, vision of an ideal community, and for his dedication to the struggle for peace, freedom and social justice for his native land.

Previous recipients were Dr. Belinda Aquino (2011), the late Dr. Jorge Camara (2012),



Award recipient Anacleto "Lito" Alcantra and wife Carmelita (middle) with members of the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter's Council of Elders

Dr. Amefil Agbayani (2013) and Dr. Ramon Sy (2014). Alcantra, the 2015 recipient, was born on July 13, 1937 to a farming family in San Vicente, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. He learned at an early age the value of hard work, persistence and humility—qualities that would propel him to success in later life.

Alcantra earned a full scholarship to the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila where he obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1960. After passing the board examination, he worked for the Manila Railroad Company as assistant project engineer where he was recognized as Model Assistant Project Engineer. He was Dean of the College of Engineering at the Northeastern College of Santiago, Isabela for nine years, but decided to form his own construction company which he managed from 1964

to 1973. The declaration of martial law in the Philippines made him decide to move to Hawaii.

His first job in Hawaii was at the Acoustic Insulation & Drywall from 1973 to 1978, where he worked his way up to the position of executive vice president. When the company folded in 1979, Alcantra, with the help of Charles I. Cook, formed his own company, Group Builders, Inc., a specialty contractor company. Since then, buoyed by Alcantra's entrepreneurial acumen, vision and commitment, Group Builders has experienced phenomenal growth and success.

It was the first Filipino company that was included in the top 250 companies in Hawaii in 1998; the first Filipino construction company included in Hawaii's top 20 General Contractors in 1999. It has consistently remained among the best since then. Currently, it is ranked 113th among the top 250 corporations in Hawaii, and number 14 in Building Industry's Top 25 contractors. Nationwide, the company ranks 186th among the Top 600 Specialty Contractors.

The company's success was built on a reputation for quality service and reliability which Alcantra championed and which gained for him prestigious awards such as Outstanding Filipino Business Person of the Year from the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii in 1989; Outstanding Engineer of the Year from the Filipino-American League of Engineers and Architects in 1994; Regional Minority Contractor of the Year from the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1994; Entrepreneur of the Year from

the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii in 1996; Pamana ng Pilipino Award from President Fidel Ramos in 1996; Hawaii Entrepreneur of the Year from Ernst and Young LLP in 1997; Lifetime Achievement Award from UFCH in 2006; Outstanding Union Builder Award from the Hawaii Carpenters Union Local 745 in 2006; Ten Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) Award in 2010; The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Awardee in the Professional Field of Practice in Civil Engineering in 2014; and the Trailblazer Award from the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii in 2015.

Despite his successes, Alcantra remains humble and grounded. He continues to be actively involved in cultural and trade organizations, community activities and humanitarian projects. He chaired the 11th and 12th Annual Trade Mission of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii to the Philippines. He provided labor and construction for the Bayanihan Health Services which provides free medical treatment to new immigrant families without medical insurance. He initiated the establishment of the Filipino Community Center during his term as president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and continues to serve as a member of the Center's Board of Directors. He provided free storage space for the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal until it was erected upon completion of the Filipino Community Center. He was also an officer or on the board of various professional, civic, cultural and community organizations.

A compassionate person,

Alcantra is always ready to provide assistance his staff, the community, and to various humanitarian projects. He believes in sharing the rewards of team effort; in giving, not receiving.

"I want to share my blessings and that is my happiness," he says. He believes that it is both dignifying and humanitarian to remain a part of society, to remain grounded in one's roots and to give back to the community. Perhaps, what is most inspiring is Alcantra's passion for improving the lives of his hundreds of employees through a system of shared benefits. For this, his company was recognized as one of Hawaii's "Best Places to Work" in 2008 and 2009, at a time when the economy and especially the construction industry was suffering from recession.

Alcantra is a man who exemplifies modesty and humility, hard work and success. What makes him most admired and deserving is his demonstration of the enduring Filipino attributes of Pagmimithi, Pagpupunyagi, Kagalingan and Pagkamatao (aspiration, perseverance, excellence, and people-orientedness)—the same values that Dr. Rizal embraced. Alcantra is also a man of integrity who is always willing to share his blessings, not only to the Filipino-American community in Hawaii, but to any ethnic group that requests his support.

In addition, Alcantra was conferred the honorary rank of Knight Commander of Rizal by the Supreme Council of the Order of the Knights of Rizal. The conferment was given "in recognition of his meritorious service and commitment in the propagation and practice of the values, ideals and teachings of Dr. Rizal, and in acknowledgment of his unceasing pursuit and continuing actions to actualize the lofty objectives and goals of the Knights of Rizal as mandated in its Charter and By-Laws."

Sir Arnold Villafuerte, KCR, immediate past commander of the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter, introduced the awardee, while Sir Mario Palma, KCR, chapter commander, read and presented the plaque and the Rizal award statuette. Sir Serafin Colmenares, KGOR, deputy regional commander for the USA, led the

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Illegitimate Foreign Born Children of USC Cannot Be Treated Discriminatorily



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

There are many out of wedlock children born abroad, particularly in the Philippines, one of whose parents is a U.S. citizen (USC) and the other is an alien. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) treats these children differently with regard to their acquisition of derivative U.S. citizenship depending on the gender of their USC parent.

A child born outside the U.S. and out of wedlock to a USC mother and a non-citizen father acquires at birth the nationality status of the mother, if the mother had previously been physically present in the U.S. or a possession for a continuous period of one year. By contrast, a child born outside the U.S. and out of wedlock to a USC father and a non-citizen mother acquires at birth the citizenship of the father only if the father was present in the U.S. or possession prior to the child's birth for a period totaling at least ten years, with at least five of those years occurring after the age of 14. INA § 309[8 USC § 1409 (1952), INA 301(a)(7) [8 USC 1401(a)(7) (1952)].

M.C. was born in 1962 in the Dominican Republic and

out of wedlock by a USC father (born in Puerto Rico) and a non-USC mother (Dominican). He was "legitimated" when his parents married. He was admitted to the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident. His father died in 1976. He was denied derivative citizenship. He fought the immigration authorities and won. M.C.'s USC father satisfied the requirements for transmitting citizenship applicable to an unwed USC mother but not the more stringent requirements applicable to an unwed USC father. In other words, his father was in the U.S. for more than one year but not ten years. The statute in effect when M.C. was born governs. It is set out in the preceding paragraph.

M.C. was placed in removal proceedings for various felonies. He applied for withholding of removal claiming derivative citizenship through his father. The Immigration Judge (IJ) denied his application. He filed a motion to reopen the proceedings claiming a violation of equal protection and newly obtained evidence relating to his father. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) rejected his claim for derivative citizenship and denied his motion to reopen. M.C. appealed to the Court of Appeals, arguing that the gender-based difference in the INA violates the Constitution's Fifth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection and that the proper remedy is to extend to unwed

fathers the benefits unwed mothers received under INA § 309(c) [8 USC § 1409(c)]

The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit agreed and reversed the BIA's adverse decision, holding that M.C. derived U.S. citizenship at birth through his father. The court found no reason why unwed fathers need more time in the U.S. than unwed mothers. The court noted that the difference in treatment of unwed citizen fathers and unwed citizen fathers persist in the current statute. Compare 8 USC 1409(a) (2012) and 8 USC § 1409(c). *Morales-Santana v. Lynch*, 11-1252, 07/08/2015, 2d Cir. <http://cases.justia.com/federal/appellate-courts/ca2/11-1252/11-1252-2015-07-08.pdf?ts=1436365804>.

RECOMMENDATION: A person who might have a claim to U.S. citizenship should consult an excellent and experienced lawyer to determine whether to file an application for certificate of citizenship (Form No. 600) and a U.S. passport in order to have

proof of U.S. citizenship. Do not wait until being placed in removal. If the person is in removal proceedings, the person should file a Motion to Terminate Removal Proceedings (not withholding of removal) on the ground that such person is a U.S. citizen and that the NTA was improvidently issued. Supporting documents and affidavits must be submitted to establish the claim.

CAUTION: This decision is not yet final. There is some concern in the immigrant community that the anti-alien elements in the Obama administration might appeal the decision like they did prior Court of Appeals decisions favorable to immigrants, such as the decision of the Ninth Circuit holding that the principal beneficiary's aged-out children retained the priority date of the original petition that was filed for their parent. The Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision reversed the Court of Appeals holding that such aged-out children did not retain their parent's priority date and consequently they

must go back to the end of the line and be re-petitioned by their immigrant parents. *Scialabba v. Cuellar de Osorio*, No. 12-030, June 9, 2014. http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-930_4g18.pdf

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon and/or acting pursuant to the contents of this article.)

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

ceremony for the conferment of the honorary rank and its corresponding medallion, assisted by Sir Ben Sanchez, KGOR, Sir Raymund Liongson, KGOR, Area Commander, and Mrs. Alcantra.

True to his being "a man of few words," Alcantra gave a brief acceptance speech, thanked the Knights of Rizal for the honor and called on everybody to work together for the good of the Filipino and the larger community.

Inspirational Speaker

The event also featured in-

spirational speaker Dr. Virgie Chattergy, professor and assistant dean emeritus at the College of Education of the University of Hawaii Manoa. Dr. Chattergy holds a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and a Doctorate Degree in Education (Ed.D.) from the University of California at Los Angeles where she also completed a Certificate Program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

She was born, raised and educated in Cebu City where she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

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PICTORIALS



▲ Medical residents from the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine and medical doctors observers/preceptees from the University of Santo Tomas celebrate Fourth of July with friends and their preceptor Dr. Charlie Sonido.



▲ Edna Bautista and husband Rick Parkinson pick up a copy of the Chronicle at a recent visit to the Chronicle's office.



▲ Birthday celebrant Rodolfo Sonido (seated) enjoys his party at the Waialeale Country Golf Club Restaurant with (standing, from left) co-celebrant Nena Sarmiento, Nelly Somera and Zavyn Joziah Biniek.



▲ Rodolfo Sonido prepares to blow out the candles on his cake for his 91st birthday celebration.



▲ Birthday celebrant Rodolfo Sonido (seated) poses with Anastacia Sonido, Francisca Siruno, Demetrio Siruno and Dionita Siruno.



▲ Birthday celebrants Dr. Carolina Davide and JP Orias (seated) celebrate the happy event at Max's of Manila in Iwilei with well-wishers (left to right): Dr. Russell Tacata, Imelda Joaquin, Dory and Dr. Arnold Villafuerte, Jay Flores and Dr. Nick Joaquin.

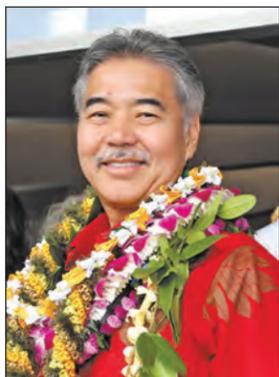


▲ (from left): Aida Aquino, Dr. Ronnie Roaquin, Jhay-Anne Yadao and Ofelia Lagat at the birthday party for Rodolfo Sonido and Nena Sarmiento. ▲ Irene Alabanza and Agnes Siruno at the same party.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Ige Welcomes New Staff to Address Homeless Crisis

Gov. David Ige recently announced the hiring of Harold Brackeen III for the State's Homeless Programs Office where he will assist with the administration of state and federal



Gov. David Ige

grants for shelters, outreach and other program activities. Brackeen began his new position on September 1, 2015.

Brackeen was previously a program specialist with the State Department of Human Services, Social Services Division. Prior to joining DHS, he was a housing director at Alternative Structures International and served as a program coordinator with Hale Kipa, a program serving Hawaii's youth.

Ige also welcomed Scott Morishige, who began his duties as the governor's coordinator on homelessness on August 24, 2015.

"The only way to solve homelessness in Hawaii is to invest in our team and build the state's capacity in targeted ways," Ige says. "Both of these men bring solid skills and experience to the task, and they will work with our partners to help meet the challenges our communities face."

The governor announced that his Leadership Team on Homelessness and Partners in

Care, a coalition of homeless service providers on Oahu, have worked together to successfully move 28 people—five families and six single adults—off sidewalks in Kakaako and into shelters. The amount represents nearly 10 percent of the 293 people surveyed in the area earlier this month.

Shelter space became available as families and individuals successfully transition into either permanent or longer-term transitional housing. A total of 27 people (four families and 13 single adults) from the Next Step shelter and the IHS shelter on Kaaahi Street have found housing.

"This movement of individuals and families into temporary shelters is significant because it demonstrates the positive outcomes we can achieve when the city and the state work together. Delayed enforcement in the area helped service providers to move more people into shelters," Morishige says.

The Governor's Leadership Team has also identified five state-owned portable buildings that can be used to provide temporary shelters for families. Locations for these buildings are currently under consideration.

Leeward Theatre Gears Up for 41st Season

Leeward Theatre officials have announced the start of their 41st season which runs from September 2015 to June 2016.

Located at Leeward Community College, the theatre is about to undergo major renovation work. The line-up of events may be shorter, but officials say there are still many fantastic performances in store for the public.

"Although we have a reduced season, we're not completely dark," says theatre manager Kemuel DeMoville. "Come check out the fantastic offerings we have for our 41st Season."

For a complete listing of upcoming events and performances or for ticket prices, go online to: <http://LCCTheatre.hawaii.edu> or email DeMoville at: KE-MUEL@hawaii.edu.



By Myra Rodriguez
AlohaCare Staff Member

AlohaCare puts aloha back in health care.

Every day I have the chance to make a positive difference in the lives of families. When a health problem occurs, it can be hard to figure out what options are available to you or even to understand what a doctor is telling you. If Ilocano or Tagalog is your first language and English is your second language, that can make everything seem overwhelming. We at AlohaCare are here to help you understand your health care.

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Myra Rodriguez and Hyun Joo Lee discuss AlohaCare health plans.

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To sign up for AlohaCare's health plans or to find out if you qualify for extra health care benefits, call AlohaCare at 973-0712 or



Myra Rodriguez assists her AlohaCare plan member at the doctor.

Plan (HMO SNP) for those who qualify for Medicaid and who are blind, disabled, or 65 years or older. Members on our plan are given a card that allows them to buy vitamins, toothpaste, cold & flu medicines, and more from drugstores in their area.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

House Panel Approves Free College Education Bill

by Paolo Romero
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The House committee on higher and technical education approved yesterday a bill that seeks to fully subsidize tuition fees in all state universities and colleges (SUCs).

House Bill 5905, or the "Free Higher Education Act," authored by Valenzuela City Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian, was approved by the panel chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo.

Gatchalian said the bill is expected to benefit some two million students in more than 100 SUCs in the country.

"This will entail only P12 billion. The tuition-free program is only less than one percent or 0.35 percent of the P3-trillion national budget for next year," Gatchalian told reporters.

He said the government is capable of making SUCs tuition-free given the country's good economic performance, improved tax collection and the unused allocation for infrastructure.

Under the proposed measure, qualified students can avail of the full tuition subsidy, provided they maintain good academic and moral standing.

An initial amount of P10.5 billion shall be appropriated from the Presidential Social Fund to implement the proposal.

The measure provides for the creation of a Special Tuition Subsidy Fund, which shall be managed by the Commission on Higher Education.

Gatchalian said tertiary schooling should be given the same priority as basic education, given its individual and social benefits.

He said the measure would increase access to higher education to the level of developed countries.

The Family and Income Expenditure Survey in 2012 showed that a household led by a college graduate earns an average family income more than twice that of a family headed by one who only finished high school.

(www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 7, KNIGHTS...)

(BSE-ED) from St. Theresa's College. Dr. Chattergy pioneered the efforts to promote the inclusion of language sensitivity and cultural diversity in teacher education programs in the College of Educa-

tion at a time when the idea was relatively new as a subject in higher education. Her involvement in this field led to a variety of professional activities, awards and recognition. Among the various awards that she received was the National Education Association (NEA) Award for Leadership in Asia/Pacific Island Education.

Dr. Chattergy inspired the audience with her talk on Dr. Rizal's three loves—his love for his mother, country and learning. Quoting from his works and citing examples from his life and travels, she gave a picture of the national hero as a multi-faceted and enigmatic person—one whom his admirers loved and one that his enemies feared. She depicted him as a person who was far ahead of his times and how his life and his ideas remain relevant in today's world, giving proof to the axiom that while a person may be killed, his ideas will live on. She considers Rizal as "a man for all time."



Guest speaker Dr. Virgie Chattergy (middle) with Serafin "Jun" Colmenares and his wife Letty

bers of the newly organized Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal (KAPARIZ), also known as the Rizalian Youth Council—a group associated with the Knights of Rizal and dedicated to promoting among

the youth the ideals and principles of the Philippine national hero. The group held a Rizalian Youth Leadership Institute last July 2015 at the University of Hawaii-Leeward which was attended by 49 high school and university students from various high schools as well as campuses of the University of Hawaii. Recently, it sponsored an essay contest for students themed "Today's Youth: Embracing Heritage and Charting the Future."

The winners of the contest were announced during the evening gala. They are: Andrea Lyn Mateo of Waipahu High School, third place (\$100); Athena Abadilla of Waimea High School in Kauai, second place (\$300); and Rovee Anne Pajarillo of Waipahu High School, first place (\$500). The board of judges was composed of Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ethel Alikpala Ward, and Courtney Takabayashi. Prizes were provided by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter. Sirs Raymund Liongson, KGOR, Arnold Villafuerte, KCR, and Mario Palma, KCR, made the announcements and awarded the prizes.

Rizalian Youth Council

The evening gala was also an opportunity to introduce the officers and mem-

TRAVEL & LEISURE

TEMPTING TOKYO

RENDEZVOUS By Christine S. Dayrit

Tokyo was quiet as we checked into our hotel. It was a few days before the Golden Week holiday, but it seemed like a lot of the locals had an early start for their long weekend. It was a pleasure to walk along uncrowded sidewalks and travel on trains without the usual crush of people. The streets and highways were a breeze to drive around and the restaurants yielded easy seating.

One of the major attractions in Tokyo is the centrally located Tsukiji Market. Known mainly for its tuna auctions, it is also a wholesale center for vegetables and fruits. There are actually two sections of the market, the inner one where the wholesale business is done and a smaller outdoor section, which contains the smaller retail stores, restaurants and stands.

We were there to watch the famed “tuna-buying spectacle” and woke up at 2:30 a.m. to queue for three of the only 120 allotted tickets per day.

A short 10-minute cab ride deposited us on a sidewalk where a line had already formed to the office window. We were numbers 31, 32 and 33 and happy to know we had made the cut-off. By 3:30 a.m., the maximum number was reached and we patiently waited till the office opened at 5 a.m.

The line started moving a little after 5 a.m. and we were ushered into a large room and divided into two groups of 60. We were told that the first group of 60 visitors would be admitted to the auction between 5:25 a.m. and 5:50 a.m., while the second group of 60 visitors would be admitted between 5:50 a.m. and 6:15 a.m.

We had to walk to the auction center with our guides who helped us navigate through the narrow paths and roadways that were bustling



A garden of sashimi. Photos by YVETTE LEE

with delivery trucks and motorized pallet movers that zoomed in and out with Styrofoam boxes filled with fish, crustaceans and every other imaginable edible marine species.

We were herded into the center aisle of a refrigerated warehouse and told not to move around and to just observe what was going on. Frozen tuna torsos were lined up neatly in rows and the prospective buyers would stop at the ones that interested them. The tail ends of the tunas were sliced so that they could nick off a small piece to roll between their fingers. Everyone also carried a flashlight, the better to inspect the flesh.

After the inspection period, an auctioneer stood on a crate and started the auction in a loud singsong voice. Buyers milled around him and the sale proceeded with hand signals. It was over very quickly and the tuna was whisked away by a forklift.

We went back to our hotel for a nap and returned at 12 noon to the outdoor portion of the market. Needless to say, there was an abundance of sushi restaurants. Melt-in-your-mouth toro, hamachi and other delectably sliced slivers of fish made up our lunch.

The storefronts were a sight to behold. It would be a perfect walking food tour. One had braziers of red hot coals where palm-sized scallop shells were roasting — plump meat seating cheek by jowl

with a large dab of rich butter. A display of the triangular and round rice balls in different flavors caught our eye, as well as a shop where people were lined up to buy the *tamagoyaki* — which is a Japanese type of omelet in which cooked egg is rolled into several layers. These, too, came in different varieties. Some had bits of chopped green onion, some had squid and so on.

There were also sushi and sashimi stalls for those who wanted to take home the precious packets of fish. We watched a fish butcher expertly convert half-a-meter long fish first into large, uniform slabs and then slicing them into uniform, mouth-sized pieces.

We stopped at a store that sold different kinds of marinated pickles and seafood and loaded up on vacuum-sealed bags of mushrooms, clams and radish. Just as we were leaving, we had a whiff of the rich aroma of cooking meat. My nose led us to a stand where two big vats of beef were simmering. I asked one of the customers what the difference was and I was told one vat had meat, while the other had liver.

By the time I was the second in line, the owner told the person in front of me they were closed for the day. I tried pleading my case to no avail. Even though they still had a lot, apparently they still had to close at 2:30 p.m. because that was the rule of the market.

We assuaged our disappointed tummies later that



Fish barbeque is a common food in Tokyo.

evening at a noodle place, which was a hole-in-the-wall across from the train tracks. When we walked in, we could see customers huddled at the counter, slurping *tsukemen* noodles that they had dipped into a thick broth before transferring it noisily into their mouths. We pointed at the same noodles when the chef-cum-waiter looked our way. He smiled and walked out, beckoning us to go with him. There, by the door, was a machine that had Japanese characters and a money slot. And

he showed us how to use the *vendo* machine to order the items we wanted. The noodles were thick and almost had a rubbery crunch. Two pots of thick broth bubbled merrily away on the stove top just a few feet before us. It was so good we went back for a second serving.

The next day, we hopped on five different train lines until we got to the Ashikagashi Station. There were a lot of shuttle buses to the park but we decided to take a cab.

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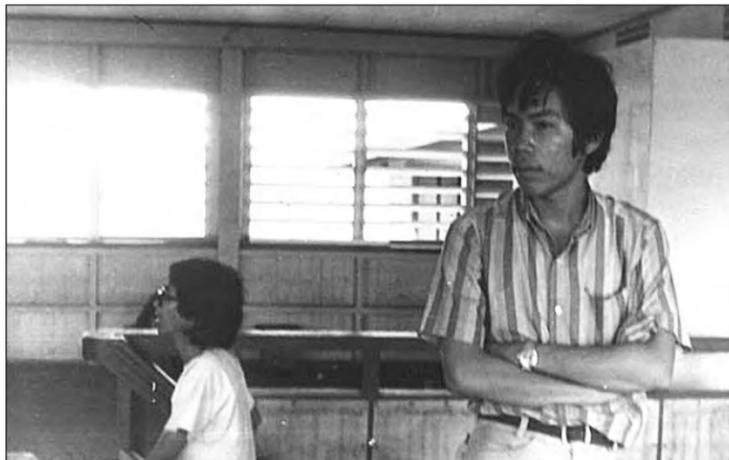
PENMAN By Butch Dalisay

O was very sad to hear of the recent passing of an old colleague from my first foray into journalism — Nemesio Dacanay, who was then the City editor of the Philippines Herald, one of the pre-martial law period's smaller but pre-eminent newspapers. A relative of his texted me about his death and interment, but I was out of town and felt bad that I couldn't even pay my respects in person, so I'll do it here.

Five years ago, in this column, I had to issue an apology — and I was happy to do so — having inadvertently suggested in a previous piece that “Dac” had passed on to the hereafter. As it turned out, he was still very much alive, as his daughter Christine reminded me. This time, unfortunately, the news was real.

The story of my connection to Dac and of how I got into the newspapers is something I may have told before in bits and pieces, but here it is in full. The time was early 1972, and I had just turned 18. I was already a full-time activist, having dropped out of my classes in UP, a lanky, chain-smoking lad who was already a veteran of many a Plaza Miranda march and of the Dili-man Commune.

In UP, I hung out with a group of older Journalism majors who were close to graduating and who would, very shortly after, begin to make a name for themselves as reporters — people like Wilson



The Penman as a Collegian reporter ca. 1971-72

Bailon, Rolly Fernandez, Jun Engracia, Efren Cabrera, Rod Cabrera, and Val Abelgas, among others. I had great respect and admiration for these guys, but at the same time, it annoyed me to know that they were soon going to find and land jobs, while I — technically still a freshman, with but 21 completed units to my name (3 of them good for a “5.0” in Math, the consequence of absenteeism) — was going to be left behind.

I should explain that at 18, I had no greater ambition than to become a journalist. I'd written some stories, poems, and plays, but I had no plans of becoming a creative writer, and might even have thought journalism superior to poetry (and why not?). I had been editor in chief of the school paper at Philippine Science High (following in the gargantuan footsteps of Rey Veal, Mario Taguiwalo, and Rodel Rodis), and I found that I savored the romance of printers' ink and hot lead (that's “lead” with a short E for you young ones, the molten metal that magically turned into letters in reverse).

As soon as I stepped into

UP, at 16, I did the three things I'd put on my agenda, after enrollment: join the Nationalist Corps (and later the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan, or SDK), join the Alpha Sigma Fraternity (to which high school heroes like my Physics teacher Vic Manarang and firebrand Gary Olivivar belonged), and join the staff of the Philippine Collegian.

It was in the nationalist movement and those long nights of proofreading at Liwayway Press that my desire to become a reporter flourished. Never mind poetry and fiction; I wanted to feel and to record the ground shaking beneath my feet from the steps of a thousand marchers, to trace the arc of tear gas canisters flying across the plaza, to bear witness to what we were all convinced was the forging of a bright new future, with all the sparks and all the smoke that came with the process. To be a reporter at that time was to be in the very womb of history, and I thought nothing was more thrilling and more important than to be there on the frontlines, notebook and ballpoint in hand and a barely

stifled battle cry rising up my throat: “Pierce the enemy with your pens!” (That was the slogan silkscreened on my jacket.)

As you can see, as a teenage Maoist, I had no idea of and no patience for “objective” and “dispassionate” journalism. I hadn't even taken one formal unit of Journalism in UP (I was an Industrial Engineering major, and still plowing through my GE subjects) and had embraced the notion that journalism was and had to be a partisan activity, convinced that Malacañang had bought 90 percent of the Philippine press, with the notable exception of progressives like Tony Zumel, Satur Ocampo, and Rolly Fadul, and young blood like Roz Galang and Millet Martinez. We were going to be the vanguard of what we called the Second Propaganda Movement.

But I didn't want to be stuck on campus; it was a wide-open arena beyond Dili-man, so when my friends began applying for jobs with the newspapers shortly before graduation in early 1972, I tagged along, hoping to land something, anything. (I'd already written and sold a teleplay to the TV drama anthology Balintataw in 1970, when I was 16, so I didn't lack in self-esteem.) I remember walking up to the editor of the Manila Chronicle, Amando Doronila, and boldly announcing that I wanted to apply as a reporter. “How old are you?” the man asked in all reasonableness. “Eighteen,” I said. “Come back in a few years,” he suggested, not unkindly.

It was like that, one prospect after another, until my path led to the old Philippines Herald office in Intramuros, sometime in March or April. It was must have been around one in the afternoon, because the only person in the newsroom was Nemesio “Dac” Dacanay, whose name I didn't even know at that point. He had a groovy look about him: dark shades, a colorful, open-necked shirt, and an impish grin. I told him what I was there for, and I can't recall how long I begged to be given a chance, but finally, if only to get rid of the pesky walk-in, he said: “Where do you live?” I said,

“Quezon City.” He said, “Okay. Go back to Quezon City, then come back in three days with a story. Understood?”

I stepped out of the Herald on a floating cloud — I was positive I would deliver as directed. Over the next three days, not knowing anything about real newswriting, I walked around the Quezon Memorial, waiting for some dreadful accident to happen that I could breathlessly report on. The world remained blissfully peaceful, and the only thing that came crashing down was my dream of becoming a journalist. On the third day, I was so tired and depressed that I took a jeepney to the Delta Theater, and decided to cool off in the moviehouse. I watched the screen. The movie was so awful I can't even remember its title. When it was over, I went home, collected my thoughts, and pulled out my typewriter.

Then I took a bus to Intramuros, and handed Dac my story — a movie review. Damn — I could hear him mutter, and I could see him sizing me up through his shades — okay ka, kid. “I'll pass this on to Nestor,” he said, referring to the venerable Nestor Mata, who handled the features page. “He'll take care of you.”

And so I was hired at 18 as a general assignments reporter, the greenest of greenhorns in a roomful of veterans that included editor in chief Oscar Villadolid, news editor Joe Pavia, reporter Lito Catapusan (who took me under his wing), and a deskman who moonlighted as a songwriter named George Canseco. Over the next few months, I would make the rounds of the police, sports, and City Hall beats, cramming three more years of college into a semester. Thanks to a guy who humored me named Dac, I had achieved my ambition of becoming a journalist. (By July, in a flash of activist fervor, I would resign in solidarity with striking workers, and move over to Taliba as a correspondent right up to martial law, when we all lost our jobs and the press as we knew it vanished overnight. But that's another story.) (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Applicants May Benefit from CSPA Despite Late Filing

The Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) grants relief to certain children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who would have lost the privilege of getting a green card simply for turning 21 years old. It allows a child who has aged out or turned 21 to still be considered a “child” for immigration benefits purposes.

To determine the age of the applicant using the CSPA formula, the length of time the petition was adjudicated is deducted from the beneficiary’s age on the date a visa number became available. If using this formula the child’s age falls below 21, the child can benefit

from the CSPA if he “sought to acquire” lawful permanent resident status within one year of visa availability.

A child is considered to have met the “sought to acquire” requirement if he filed Form I-485, application for adjustment of status, submitted an application for immigrant visa and alien registration or filed Form I-824, application for action on an approved application or petition filed on his behalf.

If the child did not do any of the above within one year of visa availability, he may still be covered by the CSPA protection if he can show that his failure to timely file was due to “extraordinary circumstances” beyond his control.

The Board of Immigration Appeals, in *Matter of O. Vazquez*, found that extraordi-

nary circumstances may warrant the exercise of discretion for late filings, if the applicant demonstrates the following: (1) the circumstances were not created by the alien through his own action or inaction, (2) the circumstances were directly related to the alien’s failure to file the application within the one year period; and (3) the delay was reasonable under the circumstances.

The USCIS released a policy memorandum providing guidance on evaluating claims of “extraordinary circumstances” for failing to timely satisfy the “sought to acquire” requirement.

One example of extraordinary circumstance which may warrant a favorable exercise of discretion as set forth in the memo is the ineffective assistance of counsel.

The following requirements, however, should be met: (1) that the alien files an affidavit setting forth in detail the agreement entered into with counsel with respect to the actions to be taken and what representations the counsel did or did not make; (2) that the counsel has been informed of the allegations against him and have been given the opportunity to respond or good faith effort to do so is shown; and (3) the alien indicates whether the complaint has been filed and an explanation if no complaint is filed.

Serious illness or mental or physical disability during the one year period or legal disability such as instances where the applicant was suffering from mental impairment during the one year period are also examples of extraordinary circumstances that may warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

Another example is the death or serious illness or incapacity of the applicant’s legal representative or a member of the applicant’s immediate family.

Also, where a timely application was rejected by the USCIS as improperly filed and was returned to applicant for correction and the deficiency was corrected within a reasonable period, the applicant’s failure to meet the deadline may be excused.

In determining whether the applicant demonstrated extraordinary circumstances for failing to timely file, the officers consider the totality of the circumstances and use the “preponderance of the evidence standard.”

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

Social Security Marks 80th Anniversary

The Social Security Administration (SSA) celebrated its 80th anniversary on August 14th with a ceremony at the agency’s headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland and at Major and Minor League baseball games across the country with the theme “America’s Favorites: Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and SSA.”

Earlier this year, SSA launched a commemorative 80th anniversary website, www.socialsecurity.gov/80thanniversary, highlighting the



how Social Security has benefited them or their families. Social Security employees around the country have also expressed their support through the agency’s “Why I Serve” campaign, which allows employees to tell their own stories illustrating why they enjoy giving back through public service.

The SSA was established in 1935 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, landmark legislation that continues to provide hope and protection

to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Acting SSA Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin marked Social Security’s historic birthday by reaffirming the agency’s commitment to the public.

“Social Security is the

most successful domestic program in America’s history,” she says. “Providing outstanding customer service to the public has been a cornerstone of our agency’s mission since the beginning and into the future. We will continue to be a strong foundation for the next 80 years and beyond.”

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MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am Group Calls For Justice for Trafficked Bakery Workers

BAYAN USA has renewed calls for justice on behalf of 11 trafficked Filipino workers of L’Amande French Bakery in Beverly Hills and Torrance, California whom the group says are victims of human trafficking, labor violations and retaliation by owners Analiza and Goncal Moitinho de Almeida.

“We call for justice for the workers and stand together with them as they continue to fight for their rights, dignity and safety of their families,” says BAYAN

USA’s Jessica Antonio.

Earlier this year, the bakery employees came forward to expose the deplorable working conditions and labor trafficking schemes of the Almeidas. In 2012, the workers were recruited from the Philippines with promised salaries of \$2,000 a month. Instead, they were subjected to abusive treatment including working as domestic servants at the Almeidas’ home, sleeping on the laundry room floor and enduring physical labor such as housekeeping, painting and landscaping.

The workers filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the Almeidas for multiple violations including illegal recruitment, paying less than the minimum wage, discrimination, harassment, failure to pay overtime pay and denying workers days off. They were paid \$2-\$3 an hour and oftentimes working 15-17 hours a day without meals or rest breaks. In 2014, the California Labor Commissioner’s Office ordered the Almeidas to pay roughly \$250,000 in overtime wages to the workers.

The Almeidas recently fired the rest of their employees, closed their two bakeries

and sold their multi-million dollar properties in Southern California, including a 17-unit rental apartment complex in Long Beach worth \$2.4 million. They are in the process of repositioning their \$1.4 million estate in Rolling Hills to Ana’s father, Juan Santos, former CEO of Nestle (Philippines) and Chair of the Social Security Administration, in an attempt to keep the properties out of reach of the lawsuit case.

“The bakery workers have been tossed into a corner because the owners have used threats against their families in the Philippines,” says said

Nikole Cababa, BAYAN USA Deputy Secretary General. “The Aquino government should investigate the Almeidas and protect the workers’ families. But Aquino has done nothing to address the plight of migrants and trafficking survivors.”

According to the Philippine Department of Labor & Employment, over 6,000 Filipinos leave the Philippines every day to work abroad. There are also 12 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) around the world. In 2014 alone, \$26 billion in remittances have been sent back to the Philippines, a majority of which were sent by OFWs in the U.S.

Exhibit to Mark 70th Anniversary of End of WWII

The Bataan Legacy Historical Society, Memorare Manila 1945, the San Francisco Public Library and the Philippine Consulate General are co-sponsoring a new exhibit and conference to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

“World War II in the Philippines – The Legacy of Two Nations” will open on



September 12, 2015 at the San Francisco Main Public Library. The conference is scheduled for October 24, 2015 at the li-

brary’s Koret Auditorium. Both events are open to the public. Admission is free but conference attendees are encouraged to register.

The exhibit, which will run through January 9, 2016, depicts the story of World War II in the Philip-

pines, a seminal piece of history that has been mostly forgotten. The exhibit will also present a compelling story of the sacrifices of Filipino, American and Allied soldiers and civilians—including depict the Bataan Death March, one of the most horrific events during WWII. One million civilians perished in the Philippines during WWII and its capital Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw.

The conference will feature speakers with different perspectives of the war. WWII

veterans Chief Johnny Johnson of the USS San Francisco, the most decorated carrier during WWII, and Maj. General Richard Keith of the 511th Parachute Infantry will be among the speakers. Veterans and survivors of the war will also act as panelists. State Superintendent Tom Torlakson of the California Department of Education will deliver the opening keynote speech.

For further information, go online to: www.bataanlegacy.org.

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This handout photo provided by NASA shows a crop of “Outredgeous” red romaine lettuce from the Veggie plant growth system that tests hardware for growing vegetables and other plants in space on the International Space Station. NASA via AP

Space Salad: Astronauts Grow Vegetables in Space

WASHINGTON — These are the salad days of scientific research on the International Space Station. On Monday, for the first time astronauts munched on red romaine lettuce that they grew in space.

After clicking their lettuce leaves like wine glasses, three astronauts tasted them with a bit of Italian balsamic vinegar and extra-virgin

olive oil.

Astronaut Kjell Lindgren pronounced it awesome, while Scott Kelly compared the taste to arugula. They talked about how the veggies added color to life in space.

If astronauts are to go farther in space, they will need to grow their own food and this was an experiment to test that.

Astronauts grew space station lettuce last year but had to ship it back to Earth for testing and didn’t get to taste it. (www.philstar.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 12, 2015 | POMAKAI BALLROOMS, DOLE CANNERY | 6:00 PM | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 371-8538

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA FUNDRAISER | September 18, 2015 | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | 5:30 PM | Interested in volunteering and for details, please contact Exec. Director Donnie Juan at 808-680-0451

MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN CORONATION AND DINNER PROGRAM | October 24, 2015 | Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel & SPA | Theme: Keeping Ilocano Tradition alive.....

Four finalists representing Cabugao, San Juan Lapog, Sto Domingo and Vigan will be competing for the MRS ISAH 2015 crown. Part of the proceed will be used for the ISAH Medical and Homecoming Mission December 2015 to the participating town of Ilocos Sur. Donation for the event is \$75.00 | Contact Loida Yamamoto @679-9540; Danny Villaruz @778-0233

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

200 Families Brace for Demolition in Malabon City

by Dennis Carcamo
Tuesday, September 1, 2015



MANILA, Philippines - Around 200 informal settler families in Malabon City braced for another demolition of their homes on Tuesday morning.

Based on reports that residents have received, at least 1,000 demolition crew members, escorted by local policemen, will troop to Governor Pascual Avenue, Sitio 6, Barangay Catmon, Malabon to facilitate the eviction of the informal

settlers in the area.

The city government of Malabon has been planning to implement a Community Mortgage Program in the area.

Two weeks ago, hundred of residents blocked the demolition crew and police forces who attempted to demolish 43 homes to give way to

the road right of way under a subdivision plan submitted to Socialized Housing Finance Corp.

Some 200 hundred families resisted the planned CMP in the area.

The city's local housing board has earlier released resolution requesting for the police assistance for the implementation of a just and humane demolition of affected structures constructing the right of way in the CMP area.

The resolution was signed by Mayor Antolin Oreta III, also the chair of the housing board. (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS

Filipinos in the U.S. Slam Proposal Targeting Balikbayan Boxes

Filipinos in the U.S. are vowing to remain vigilant against attempts by the Philippine Bureau of Customs (BOC) to open balikbayan boxes sent by overseas Filipinos for inspection and taxation in an attempt to fulfill a P600-million target revenue set by the Philippine government.



The recent retraction of BOC of its original proposal to mandatorily open balikbayan boxes is due to the outrage expressed by Filipinos worldwide. However, the BOC still plans to increase clearing fees for all containers entering Philippines ports to as much as P100,000 to P120,000, which would translate to an additional \$7 per balikbayan box. The first increase of P40,000 per container was imposed July 27, while another increase is reportedly scheduled to take effect on October 1. Filipino workers abroad, freight forwarders and stakeholders were not consulted in this process.

The National Alliance For Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) says these actions are money-making schemes that milk Filipino workers

abroad of their hard-earned money for the personal interests of government officials.

"This issue is insulting to migrant workers abroad who try to fill these boxes with items worth months of wages and also infuriating that their tears and sweat are being translated into money for corrupt government officials and agencies," says Aurora Victoria David, NAFCON secretary.

President Aquino initially defended the BOC, stating that the BOC was just "doing its job." NAFCON criticized the president, saying that he used the same reasoning to maintain his agencies' budgets for his P1 trillion worth of pork barrel funds. NAFCON also slammed Aquino for neglecting human trafficking victims overseas and his administration's labor export policy

that forces over 6,000 Filipinos abroad daily in search of livelihood.

According to David, Aquino's statements reflect his callousness to the plight of Filipinos worldwide.

"The resounding demand of Filipinos is clear—protect migrant workers instead of squeezing more money from us," she says.

NAFCON urged Filipino migrant workers worldwide to participate in Zero Remittance Day on August 28, 2015 and demand that the Aquino administration retract the P600-million target revenue from balikbayan boxes.

"We need to make sure our concerns are addressed and our rights protected, our hard-earned money goes to our families and not to corrupt politicians, and our home country is led by a government that does not turn our love for family into a profit-making business," David says.

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