

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

♦ JANUARY 5, 2019 ♦

TOP NEWS OF 2018: MEDIA FIGHTS FOR DEMOCRACY

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EDITORIALS

2018 Looked a Lot Like 2017

2018 was mostly about continuity of 2017. If you had to summarize the year in one word it would be that – continuity.

What we heard for the entire year was the same political discourse, mostly vitriol from the twitter president who saw the media as his greatest enemy, and a Mueller investigation that was and is his boogeyman behind every corner.

We've heard the same lies, charges, countercharges. We saw the media play out its greatest year in decades as facilitators of facts, straightening out the mess of lies abound.

The media this year truly filled the role as protectors of democracy, since the nation had been ruled by one party, the GOP, which abandoned any semblance of responsibility in checking their leader and his autocratic tendencies.

2018 was the year of the media. Time magazine called it. And the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle editorial board concurs. Speaking of HFC, the newspaper celebrated its 25th Anniversary, a major milestone. Owners of the HFC, Dr. Charlie and Chona Montesines-Sonido, started the newspaper in part to advocate for immigrants.

And 2018 was another consecutive year that immigrants needed all the help they could get from the media like the HFC to fight against immigrant-bashing, lies, and very harmful policies.

This year will be remembered as one of the nation's darkest moments when Trump with his zero-tolerance policy separated migrant parents from their children at the southern border. That shameful act of inhumanity even had moderate Republicans crying foul. There are limits – and it turns out that most Americans had zero tolerance for Trump's zero-tolerance policy. Out it went.

But not forgotten. That incident, along with the Brett Kavanaugh controversial confirmation by the Senate to become a Supreme Court justice, were catalysts to the midterm election. They incited women to come out in record-breaking numbers to vote, run and win political office, and largely a reason why Democrats retook the U.S. House of Representatives.

The midterm election was big news in 2018 and finally Trump will meet opposition in 2019. The majority of Americans (remember a majority of Americans did not vote for him) can get the representation they deserve. The midterm will signal a reboot of sorts to a not too distant past (before Trump's election) when the environment mattered and global warming was taken seriously.

2018 saw the climate-driven events of hurricanes Florence and Michael, followed by the deadly California wildfires. Florence hit North and South Carolina causing \$17 billion in damages.

Michael was the strongest storm on record to make land-fall in the Florida Panhandle. It caused upwards of \$20 billion in damages.

Close to two million acres have been ravaged by the California wildfires.

2018 ranked fourth among the years with the greatest number of billion-dollar disasters.

In Hawaii a disaster that happened, but didn't happen, scared the living daylights out of tens of thousands of Hawaii residents and visitors.

Remember reading this text: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

The false missile scare came at a time when hostile rhetoric between President Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong

FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's our first issue of the year and as usual we present highlights recapping the previous year. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's year-in-review mirrors the topics covered in the mainstream media but also reflects unique stories specific to our community.

For our cover story this issue, HFC associate editor Edwin Quinabo compiles summaries of some of the stories we've published in 2018 in case you missed them originally. For complete articles, readers can visit the HFC website www.thefilipinochronicle.com and search our archives.

Number one on our list of top news is oddly enough the Year of the Media. It's unique that presenters of news should get this distinction, but when you look at the media's traditional role of setting facts straight and exposing injustice – this hasn't been more needed in modern times than now with a president who constantly blows smoke screens. The media, the "Fourth Estate," in many ways has been the only opposition to President Trump given the GOP's silent complicity and majority in Congress. And for that reason, the media has arguably played the most significant role in placing a check where the balance of power has obviously been askew.

The HFC's 25th celebration falls under this category of the Year of the Media. A very close second and third place on this compilation is the midterm elections and attacks on immigrants. See what community event appeared prominently on our list and the Filipino role models who have been featured in past cover stories this year.

Also in this issue, Marlissa Martin, Ph.D. contributes an OP-ED on looking forward to the new year and making resolutions. And yes, she reminds us that vehicle registrations, property taxes and income taxes are soon due.

In HFC's Emil Guillermo column, he writes about the incoming (for a second time) Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the historical inauguration of the most diverse Congress the nation has ever had. Among them is Filipino American T.J. Cox, the newly elected representative from the Central Valley of California. A Democrat representing parts of Fresno and Kern County, Cox had fewer votes on election night, but a late count earned him a victory.

Cox joins Bobby Scott, another Democrat Filipino congressman. Scott is a long-time U.S. representative from Virginia.

Pelosi is a masterful, tough, astute legislator and deserves to be at the helm. The nation looks forward to what will transpire. We wish the new U.S. Congress much success and hope bipartisanship prevails.

Lastly, HFC contributor Sheryll Bonilla, Esq. writes a comprehensive article on "What You Need to Know About Divorce." We are publishing the first of a three-part series in this issue.

Thank you for supporting us in 2018 and we look forward to another year of covering the news that matter to our community. We encourage community organizations and clubs to submit your press releases of your various events at least one month in advance.

We would like to wish you all have a joyous and prosperous New Year. Until next issue, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Un was at its zenith. The entire Pacific was already jittery; and the false missile scare caused panic and extreme distress for 17 minutes before Governor David Ige informed the public of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's (HEMA) big, big blunder.



Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Executive Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Edwin Quinabo | Dennis Galolo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Art Director
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llena

Administrative Assistant
Lilia Capalad
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists

Carlota Hufana Ader
Emil Guillermo

Ron Menor

J.P. Orias

Pacita Saludes

Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.

Charlie Sonido, M.D.

Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.

Felino S. Tubera

Contributing Writers

Clement Bautista

Edna Bautista, Ed.D.

Teresita Bernales, Ed.D.

Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Rose Churma

Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.

Linda Dela Cruz

Fiedes Doctor

Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

Amelia Jacang, M.D.

Caroline Julian

Raymond Ll. Liongson, Ph.D.

Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.

Maita Milallos

Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.

Renelaine Bontol-Pfister

Seneca Moraleta-Puguan

Jay Valdez, Psy.D.

Glenn Wakai

Amado Yoro

Philippine Correspondent:

Greg Garcia

Neighbor Island Correspondents:

Big Island (Hilo and Kona)

Grace Larson | Ditas Udani

Kauai

Millicent Washington

Maui

Christine Sabado

Big Island Distributors

Grace Larson | Ditas Udani

Kauai Distributors

Amylou Aguinaldo

Nestor Aguinaldo

Maui Distributor

Cecile Piro

Molokai Distributor

Maria Watanabe

Oahu Distributors

Yoshimasa Kaneko

Jonathan Pagulayan

Advertising / Marketing Director

China A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives

Carlota Hufana Ader

J.P. Orias

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EDITORIALS

Life is Beautiful; Happy New Year

The New Year signals new beginnings and in many ways is much welcomed because of this big belief called hope.

If life is on the right course, and close to everything is neatly placed where you want it to be – you have hope that things will continue as you expect them in the New Year.

If relationship, career, and finances are slightly or dramatically misaligned, there is still hope that with effort, a new outlook and a bit of luck, situations will recalibrate to your desire in the New Year.

It's hope that motivates us when we wake up; and the fuel we rely on to keep us going.

But what if, due to your personal history, the spring of hope has all but dried up and you think you have none left. What then of the New Year? Is there any "hope" for you if you believe you have none left?

Life, Acceptance, Beauty

Thomas Merton, a Catholic scholar, writer, and social activist wrote: "Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul."

In essence, just being alive is more than enough to embrace life with happiness. And it's more than our pulse and neurons that tell us we're alive. Rather, it's because we have a soul. A belief in hope or not doesn't change this.

And in this "bigger" picture of what life is, that we are with souls -- somehow life situations, whatever they might be, is not as big as we make them out to be.

This is not to say that our journey and fulfilling our scripts of destiny do not matter. They do.

But perhaps, situational outcomes, are less important than the journey itself.

When the great author Paulo Coelho wrote his "Alchemist," the message he wanted to impart is it is the journey that enriches our soul,

and less of whether our aspirations are achieved or not. Still, we try our best.

Alchemy, inner-transformation

In the Alchemist, a young shepherd Santiago leaves his small hometown in Spain in search of hidden treasure in Egypt. He lived a simple life that he was content with until he had a dream of finding treasure. In his heart, it was something he felt he must pursue.

Santiago travels through several communities, meets many people. He sees beauty everywhere, just as he sees danger and the uglier side of humanity. He encounters great obstacles, being robbed, having hunger; he also finds the love of his life, the beautiful Fatima. There are many twists and turns throughout his journey. What remained steady was an uncomfortable uncertainty.

Finally Santiago reaches Egypt and is robbed yet

again. Even worse, he is disillusioned to discover that there is no treasure. After all these years of struggle, he had just discovered that there is nothing to be discovered in Egypt. He reflected on the many times he wanted to return home but convinced himself to go on further because treasure awaited him. But all of it was in vain. He had lost hope.

He tells the robber of his dream he had as a boy in Spain. The robber said in bitter irony that he too had the same dream but that treasure was not in Egypt but in Spain.

Beleaguered from his journey, Santiago returns with Fatima to Spain where he grew up. He gave up on the idea of finding treasure. But as fate would have it, they eventually find a trunk of gold under a tree that Santiago had seen many times as a boy.

The story happily ends with Santiago, Fatima, and the long elusive treasure finally found.

But really, the treasure

was in his adventures, experiences, and in his heart. Whether he discovered treasure beneath the tree or not, Santiago's life had already been enriched.

A New Year

Life is truly a mystery as the saying goes and Santiago's lingering uncertainty is like life for many of us. We might not find that treasure, whatever it might be. But there is always redemption when we've given our search (or simply living) our best try. This is true success.

What we have become (this is where the "alchemy" takes place) in the way of our soul through our journey – is the true treasure.

Some might even say we have always been the true treasure since the day we were born.

May we all have a truly Happy New Year, completely independent of whatever life situation comes or doesn't come our way this new year.

(2018....from page 2)

Still, a few months later, the governor who initially got hell for HEMA's mistake, evidently was fully forgiven as Ige defeated challengers Colleen Hanabusa and Andria Tupola in the midterm election.

Ironically, it took real natural disasters to occur that redeemed the governor because of his adept leadership in handling them. First there were the Kauai and Oahu major flooding; then the Big Island was hit by earthquakes and later by volcanic eruptions, and finally Hurricane Lane swept ashore which caused hundreds of millions of damage.

2018 also saw man-created disasters. There were more than 300 mass shootings in the nation according to data from the Gun Violence Archive. Among the more publicized were the Thousand Oaks shooting in California when a man entered a bar and opened fire; the Santa Fe High School Shooting when a student shot and killed 10 people; the Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting when a former student entered the school and killed 17 people; and the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting when a man opened fire in the Tree of Life temple, killing 11 people. That was the deadliest hate crime on the Jewish community in the history of the U.S.

Hate and bigotry – those are two things that gripped the nation in 2018. So was sadness as the nation's Life Expectancy dropped for a third year in a row, largely driven by record high drug overdoses and suicides. Since 1999, suicide rates have gone up by 40 percent. This year, two back-to-back high profile suicides -- Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdaine -- got Americans talking about this social epidemic.

But 2018 wasn't all doom and gloom.

In community news the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) celebrated its 20th Anniversary. That is 20 years of providing free medical services to Hawaii's indigent, homeless, immigrants and uninsured. The non-profit community based healthcare organization, run and operated by volunteer physicians and medical professionals, sees an average of 100 patients per month.

As we brush the dust off our shoulders with the passing of yet another year, we look to 2019 with hope that it will all be better. So long 2018; and better days ahead (fingers crossed) for 2019.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Delivers Message of Aloha at Honolulu City Council

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard offered the keynote message at the Honolulu City Council's inauguration ceremony at Honolulu Hale.

Gabbard said, "Living aloha is not something we can take for granted. It is a conscious choice that must be made. Every day. To stay focused and centered on our purpose.

"Aloha is most often used as hello and goodbye, but it's real meaning is so much more than that. It is about being in the presence of and recognizing the breath of life - hā - in others.

"Aloha is what binds us together -- connected, united by our love for each other, our people and Hawai'i.

"Divisiveness, hatred, bigotry and greed have cast a dark shadow over our country and so much of our politics. Aloha is what what our country and the world needs most now more than ever."

Before running for Congress, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard served on the Honolulu City Council from 2011-2012 representing District 6 (Makiki and Kalihi, Downtown Honolulu, Punchbowl, Liliha, Pauoa Valley, Nu'uuanu, 'Ālewa Heights, Papakōlea, Kalihi Valley, Moanalua Gardens, Moanalua Valley, Hālawā Heights and Aiea Heights.



Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

COVER STORY

(Editor's Note: 2018 was hit with lightning quick news cycles and dramatic events. The following is a year-in-review of the top stories covered by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle as cover stories, editorials, or news.)

2018: the Year the Press Fought to Preserve Democracy

By Edwin Quinabo



Year of the Media

While President Donald Trump all but had his way in 2017, the press and defenders of democracy launched an all-out battle in 2018 to counter the autocrat's attempts at weakening our institutions and American way of life. Time magazine selected as its person of the year appropriately – reporters and the free press. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) agrees with Time and selected “the Year of the Media” as our top story for 2018.

HFC has published four editorials on the importance of defending the free press and the role it plays in countering Trump's lies and attacks. Also this year, the HFC celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Journalism historically has been integral to the checks and balances of power in a healthy functioning democracy that it has widely been looked upon as the fourth power, or commonly known as the “Fourth Estate,” overseeing the Presidency,

Congress, and Judiciary.

Trump has time and time again referred to the press as “the enemy of the people” which is an insidious tactic dictators have used historically.

Matters were worsened by the fact that the entire political structure – Presidency, Senate, House -- had been controlled by one party, the GOP.

For a greater part of the year, it was the “Fourth Estate,” the free press, that was the only institution powerful enough to challenge the one-sided political monolith of Trump and his GOP (the old GOP died in the 2016 elections).

The press stood in solidarity in a first-ever concerted national publishing of editorials on August 16 to address Trump's undermining of the free press. The coordinated campaign sent a message that the press would not be bullied into submission.

One of the editorials that August 16th published by the Boston Globe said: “We have a president who has created a mantra that members of the media who do not blatantly support the policies of the cur-

rent US administration are the ‘enemy of the people.’

“This is one of the many lies that have been thrown out by this president, much like an old-time charlatan threw out ‘magic’ dust or water on a hopeful crowd.”

The press had been targets of attacks. CNN has been closed two times this year due to bomb scares. A suspicious package was delivered to CNN on the day that other suspicious packages were sent to Trump critics, including former President Barack Obama and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton.

The Washington Post succinctly put it: “Amid incendiary rhetoric, targets of Trump's words become targets of bombs.”

One of Trump's most harmful aspects of his presidency is his constant spreading of lies that has lowered the standard of honesty in political discourse never seen in modern history. The Washington Post reported Trump has made 3,251 false or misleading claims since taking office, according to the Fact Checker's database that analyzes, categorizes and tracks every suspect statement made by the president. That's an average of more than 6.5 false claims a day.

The media's traditional role of setting facts straight and exposing injustice couldn't have been more needed in modern times than now with a president who constantly lies and blows smoke screens. It's unusual, but news reporters themselves, were arguably the top news of the year.

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Turns 25

Locally, 2018 was milestone year as the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Over the span of 25 years, the Chronicle



has been an enterprise empowering the Filipino community through ethical, professional journalism.

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's longevity is among the most accomplished in Filipino American media nationally. Its longevity speaks volumes of the commitment by its owners -- Dr. Charlie Sonido and Chona Montesines-Sonido -- who have kept the newspaper thriving.

Montesines-Sonido, the passionate publisher who has dedicated most of her working years to the newspaper says, “We are committed to making a difference in people's lives.”

Lasting twenty-five years is a remarkable feat for any business or organization. The Filipino Chronicle, as facilitators of important news over such a long span of time, has been a movement of sorts – a genuine grassroots movement in our state. The newspaper's editorials, topics, people featured are collective yet paradoxically diverse voices of this movement perpetually unfolding.

Dr. Sonido said one of the reasons HFC was created was for immigrants to learn about their new country and for non-Filipinos to also learn about Filipino culture.

“We wanted a reputable local Filipino newspaper where

immigrant Filipinos learn not only about what is happening in the Philippines but also about Filipinos in Hawaii or on the mainland. At the same time, we wanted non-Filipinos and local-born Filipinos to have a better understanding of the Filipino culture and experience,” said Dr. Sonido.

Former senator Will Espero had been following the newspaper from the very beginning. He said: “I enjoy the many issues and topics written about. I also support many of the editorials written by staff.

“HFC is an important resource for Hawaii's Filipinos and others. It provides timely news and information for all. HFC is a needed outlet for the growing Filipino community.”

#2 Americans Rebuke Trump in Midterm Elections

To many Americans, they were passionate to change the trajectory of the country in the midterm elections. Another two years of unchecked autocracy and divisive politics could have been a tipping point. But the results of the midterm – Democrats retaking the House – averted whatever impending disaster that could have been and restored faith in a more balanced democracy.

The HFC wrote several

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COVER STORY

(from page 4)

cover stories and editorials on the midterm elections from featuring leading contenders of top races, Filipino candidates, to assessing the results and impact of the midterm elections.

Make no mistake: the midterm elections was a referendum on Trump. The midterm was a rebuke of the president; but it wasn't a blow to the GOP's knees. Democrats' win in the House was offset by Republicans keeping control of the Senate.

Democrats won large support in the usual places (among urbanites, ethnic, working-middle class, young and college educated voters), but they've also made major advances in traditionally GOP demographics, which could spell trouble for Trump in 2020.

Political analysts believe the Trump-GOP train flew off the tracks among independents and moderate Republicans because of the president's caustic leadership: his divisive rhetoric, never-ending drama, fear-mongering, false messaging and autocratic tendencies.

Democrats flipped 41 seats and won in even unexpected deep red districts. It was a history-making win in terms of seats flipped blue. The new House composition is 235-200. Republicans have controlled the House for eight years until now.

On the flipside, Republicans defended their majority in the Senate and picked up three seats. The count: 53-47.

Locally, incumbent Gov. David Ige won a second term, coming from way behind in early polls to defeat Colleen Hanabusa in the primary, then trouncing his GOP opponent Andria Tupola in record-breaking fashion.

Filipino candidates had won and hold a fair representation across the board. But seasoned Filipino politicians lost in big multi-district races for Lt. Governor and U.S. Representative, District 1.

But many Hawaii residents expressed satisfaction with the national midterm election results.

Eddie Flores, President of CEO of L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, said he was satisfied with

the results in the U.S. House. But he wished Democrats also took the U.S. Senate.

He believes the election was a referendum on Trump and says the election swayed to Democrats mostly because of the administration's anti-immigration policies. "They (policies) affect people like us who immigrated to the U.S."

#3 Immigrants Under Attack

As in 2017, the attacks on immigrants in 2018 have kept our community on guard and in anxiety. The numerous anti-immigrant policies could very well have slid into the number one position of the top news of the year.

The HFC presented a whopping six editorials this year on various immigration policies and did a comprehensive cover story of why immigrants make our nation's economy stronger.

For those not up-to-date with the president's anti-immigrant stance, some of the major proposals include: building a "symbolic" southern wall, limiting legal immigration of guest-worker visas, implementing a travel ban on mostly Muslim countries, ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), separating children from families at the border (zero-tolerance policy), discontinuing the diversity visa lottery, supersizing ICE and adopting inhumane raids, restricting asylum seekers and refugees, disqualifying legal green-card holders who receive government assistance from becoming U.S. citizens, and canceling temporary protective status of select countries.

The most potentially harmful are Trump's proposal to reduce legal immigration by half by adopting a new biased merit-based system that would eliminate family-based immigration; and the widespread stripping away of select natural-born American citizenship (denaturalization traditionally has been a very rare occurrence).

Since Trump's misinformation PR campaign started to discredit the role of immigrants in the U.S., the American public has been led to believe that

immigrants are a burden to this country. But studies show that immigrants have been vital to the nation's economy.

Economists say the economic contributions of immigrants far outweigh the cost of social services they use. It's also false that they are taking native-born workers jobs and depressing wages, according to studies from the Economic Policy Institute and the Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard. Rather, immigrants are more likely to compete for jobs that immigrants already hold.

When Americans are aware of the facts of immigrants' net-positive economic contributions, it becomes even more suspect as to why Trump and the GOP want legal immigration cut in half. Could it be cultural and political xenophobia? Or an attempt to grasp political power with an iron fist? Perhaps it could be any or all of those -- but it's clear that immigrants being bad for the economy cannot be a reason when analyzing the facts.

#4 Family Separation at the border

The startling and shocking news that the Trump administration decided to separate children from their parents at the border could have fallen under the category of immigrants under assault in the top #3 news of the year. But this policy was so scandalous that it deserved special consideration.

"We are committed to making a difference in people's lives."

CHONA MONTESINES-SONIDO
— Publisher and Managing Editor
Hawaii Filipino Chronicle

Americans must remember what Trump did to migrant children. What Trump and his Justice Department did was use children as deterrence to discourage illegal crossing, use children as pawns to advance his political agenda.

What Americans and the world had witnessed was sheer abuse of power by the president; and many politicians called his zero-tolerance policy "state sanctioned child abuse." Immoral. Unjust. Inhumane. And even as some religious figures called it, including Catholic Jesuit Fr. James Martin — Evil.

Trump used his Justice Department to exploit discretion in existing law to separate over 2,000 children from their family while adults await criminal prosecution and deportation. But he never anticipated the huge, civil disobedience, grass-roots community opposition against zero tolerance that even scared key Republican politicians to bolt from Trump on this most poorly thought out political firecracker.

Trump caved into political pressure for a first time and abandoned zero-tolerance; but certainly his true "will" was evident by his compassionless action in the first place.

In our July 7 cover story, Senator Mazie Hirono told the Filipino Chronicle, "With his zero tolerance policy, the President of the United States and his administration are playing games with the lives of innocent children. Years from now, stories will be written about this dark moment in our nation's history and what happened to these children. People will judge what we did and how we responded. I will continue to fight against this president's reprehensible actions that dehumanize immigrants, tear families apart, and undermine our country's moral leadership."

#5 Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Celebrates 20th Anniversary

It was a banner year for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) as it cele-

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OPEN FORUM

So Long 2018—Hello 2019

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

Another year (2018) has departed—12 months, 52 weeks, and 365 days have ticked away. The residue of events, happenings, and goings-on of 2018 dwell in newspapers, history books, human memories—and in the bowels of computer hard drives, cell phones, and other techno devices. More time has passed—8760 hours, 525,600 minutes, and 31,536,000 seconds have ticked away.

Sunrises and sunsets. The earth, sun, and moon work together. Gravity fastens our feet to the ground. Spring, summer, fall, winter—the four seasons happen yearly.

Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock. The former year has come to an end.

The media looks back on each previous year to tell the top stories on planet earth: political scandals, natural disasters, murder and mayhem, tragic accidents. International stories. National stories. And local stories.

Hollywood looks back at award-winning films. Along with celebrity marriages and divorces. Celebrity births and deaths. Celebrity gossip.

People look back at trophies, plaques, medals, honors, prizes, and awards. Mementos of excelling and winning. Hard work and teamwork. We look back at academics, sports, arts, music. We store up memories

as stories are written into our brains.

In the USA, wind, water, and fire received our full attention in 2018. The wildfires in California. Historic Hurricane Michael left a trail of destruction across Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Hurricane Florence flooded the Carolinas.

We look back so we can look forward. “If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday,” surmised Pearl Buck.

2018 is no more. We read newspapers in our communities; watch the evening news; and scan headlines via the internet. We talk and text recollections. We reminisce with laughter or tears.

Sometimes we look back with regrets and long for rec-

onciliations. 2019 can be a second chance to seek forgiveness. 2019 can be an opportunity to end relationships and begin new relationships. 2019 can be a turning point in your life. How can you decrease hurry-scurry-worry?

Pour another cup of coffee. Find a quiet place. Reflect upon 2018. What would you change? What would you not change? Make friends with change.

Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock. The new year is here.

In 2019, every person will become a year older between January and December. Vehicle registrations, property taxes, and income taxes are due again. More births, graduations, marriages, retirements, and deaths will occur. Life is a living creature.

“Neither the life of an individual nor the history of

a society can be understood without understanding both,” proclaimed C. Wright Mills.

Are you welcoming or dreading 2019? Or both? We’ll make resolutions, goals, and plans. Buy a house or sell a house. Keep a job or take a new job. Have children or not have children. We’ll make easy decisions and difficult decisions in 2019. Some things will stay the same. Some things will change. Change is scary and necessary.

What are some of my New Year’s resolutions for 2019? Read more books. Encourage more old ladies to wear yoga pants. And learn how to use a chainsaw.

Happy New Year to the fine folks of America!

MELISSA MARTIN, PH.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. www.melissamartinchildrensau-thor.com.

(COVER STORY: 2018: THE YEAR....from page 5)

brated 20 years of providing free medical services to the community. To help with the anniversary festivities, Doctors-On-Stage (which has been a major source of fundraising for BCWW) presented another high-caliber, entertaining production on November 3, 6:30 p.m. at Farrington High School’s Auditorium to benefit BCWW. The public and supporters of BCWW and Doctors-On-Stage enjoyed a recognition ceremony to honor the many volunteers of BCWW.

In HFC’s October 16th cover story, current president of BCWW Russell Tacata told the Filipino Chronicle, “BCWW is a non-profit community based healthcare organization that was established by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) on April 17, 1997. It was founded by Dr. Charlie Sonido during his term as president of PMAH. BCWW was established to provide free medical and dental services to newly arrived immigrants, to those who cannot afford medical insurance, and to the financially indigent.”

Dr. Sonido, founder of BCWW and producer of the DOS, says of BCWW’s service: “It is even more relevant now that all immigrants, legal

or illegal, are now being considered ineligible for any kind of government health insurance.”

BCWW provides free medical and dental services to those who have no medical coverage in the State of Hawaii. The poor, the homeless, the uninsured, immigrants all can receive free medical services through BCWW.

In today’s high inflation, high cost of living, where many people fall through the cracks and cannot afford basic health insurance and medical care, BCWW has been a much needed organization and safety net.

Since opening its doors in 1997, it has seen a total of about 240,000 people and sees an average of 100 patients per month. On its 20th year, the BCWW has expanded to other islands In Kauai and Big Island.

#6-#11 Filipinos making a difference

Besides biting analysis on serious issues, there were ample sources of positive news to write about in our communities that the Filipino Chronicle reported on. Among them were cover stories that feature role models who spark hope and a belief that anything is possible with hard work.

This year HFC featured six outstanding members in our community as cover stories: Judge Catherine Remigio who serves on the Oahu First Circuit Court; Judge Randal Valenciano, Circuit Court Judge and Chief Judge of Kauai; Todd Nacapuy, the State of Hawaii’s Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Office of Enterprise Technology Services; Luis Salaveria, Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism; Dr. Kyle Atabay, Principal at Damien Memorial School; and Augie Tulba, legendary Hawaii comedian otherwise known as simply Augie T.

In ethnic and immigrant communities, our leaders play an even greater role as trailblazers. Their lives impress upon us a sense of pride because their upbringing is similar to ours, and despite hardship, they’ve made right choices to excel in their respected professions and break glass ceilings every step of the way.

From law, government, education and the performing arts – all of these Filipino role models have been stellar leaders in our community and state.

#12 Racism and a Nation Divided

Incidences of racism is

reported to be on the rise and the new trend is people posting their experiences of racism on the internet. Clearly racism has always been a part of society, but the pulse of racism seems to be beating at a faster pace and more visible for all to see.

The HFC presented an extensive cover story on racism and several related editorials on the politics of fear, national divisiveness, and a need for employee training on racial bias.

While racism has always existed, a new disturbing tone of unblanketed, bold expression of racism casts an ugly portrait of where the country is at this time.

This new openness of racism is set from example on the top, the president, who uses xenophobia as a political tool.

Anti-immigrant sentiments is so broad that anyone who doesn’t look white or black is lumped into one “foreigner” category; and all the negative stereotypes of immigrants in general are directed at them, no matter what their country of origin is.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, a professor of sociology at Duke University, call today’s situation “new racism” in that the fallacy of a colorblind past has been lifted.

For a while, Americans tried to live colorblind. But the

turn of events especially after the election of President Donald Trump, Americans once again are lifting the blinders.

“After the 1960s and early 1970s, somehow we developed the mythology that systemic racism disappeared,” said Bonilla-Silva. But it remained, just more covert. And racism changed again, to being overt.

According to a poll conducted by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a majority of whites (55 percent) say discrimination against them exists in America today. They cite job discrimination against whites. They believe government is there for minorities. But as whites, they feel left behind, especially marginal and poor whites.

The more extreme aspect -- aboard this train of disenfranchised whites also includes a rise in hate groups.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) found hate groups rose to 954 in 2017, from 917 in 2016. Within the white supremacist movement, neo-Nazi groups increased by 22 percent, as did Anti-Muslim groups.

Jonathan Okamura, professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa

(continue on page 11)

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

Winning Immigration Asylum Cases By Really Trying

Most applications for immigration asylum are denied for want of trying. I should know. I worked as an immigration officer and processed a lot of immigration applications.

Many applicants submit immigration application forms that are incomplete, without supporting documents or with sparse supporting documents, if there are supporting documents they are not organized, there is no pagination, and there is no explanation of their relevancy or materiality to the application.

We just won a difficult asylum case involving a lady from a country that used to be part of the Soviet Union. She had a transportation business. One day a customs inspector contacted her and said that one of her trucks had been found to contain prohibited drugs. She went to see the inspector who showed her what they had found. She reported the matter to the police. The police were indifferent to her report. She went to the prosecutor who was likewise un-

interested in her complaint. Days later she received threatening calls not to be making reports like that. Thereafter, she was beaten up as she was going to her apartment and warned not to be talking. She was hospitalized for a number of days.

She and her husband left her country and came to the United States on a tourist visa. They had planned to go to another country but stopped by Hawaii. They liked the place. Months after their arrival, they applied for asylum. An asylum officer said that USCIS could not grant their application because they had failed to establish that they met the definition of "refugee" since the harm she experienced was not on account of any of the protected characteristics in the refugee definition (race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion). He referred the case to an immigration judge for adjudication in removal proceedings. The Department of Homeland Security served upon them a Notice to Appear charging them with remaining in the United States beyond the period of authorized stay.

They saw my name on a website and contacted me. Based on their story, the

case was defensible but would require a lot of effort.

ASYLUM APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

We submitted together with a co-counsel an amended asylum application claiming that she was seeking asylum because she was persecuted on account of membership in a particular social group – "informers or witnesses". We also asked for additional relief in the form of withholding of removal and relief under the Convention Against Torture.

We made copies and organized the documents that the applicants had submitted to the USCIS in connection with their original asylum application. We also obtained and submitted the hospital records showing that she was hospitalized, the police report she had made about the assault against her, the police summons to her to appear for investigation, a report by an investigator about involvement of certain police officers in a criminal group engaged in smuggling, transporting, and selling narcotic substances in the country. We also submitted a U.S. State Department Report on the country conditions of that country, especially about corruption in the country and deficiencies in the administration of justice, a Business Portal Report about corruption, extortion, bribery, and abuse of office in that country, and newspaper reports about police corruption in that country.

We also presented with our co-counsel the asylum applicant as a witness. She narrated in detail the persecution she suffered after reporting the smuggling of narcotics and her hospitalization after she was beaten. Her husband corroborated her story. We had contacted a lawyer in the applicant's home country who was ready to testify about corruption. However, it appeared that the testimonies of the applicants were sufficient.

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF ASYLUM APPLICATION

We submitted a Memorandum in support of the asylum application. We stated the law on asylum which is contained in INA Section 208 [8 USC 1158]. Basically, the applicant must meet the definition of "refugee" in Section 101(a) (42)(A), namely "any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail herself or herself of the protection of, that country because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

We pointed out that the applicant was eligible for asylum because she was outside the country of her nationality and was unwilling to return to her country because of per-

secution and a well-founded fear of persecution on account of membership in a particular social group. The term "particular social group" is ambiguous. *Donchev v. Mukasey*, 553 F.3d 1206, 1215 (9th Cir.2009). It has been the subject of considerable litigation because many asylum applicants cannot establish persecution on account of the other protected grounds like race, religion, nationality, or political opinion.

"Persecution on account of membership in a particular social group" means "persecution that is directed toward an individual who is a member of a group of persons, all of whom share a common, immutable characteristic. The shared characteristic might be an innate one such as sex, color, or kinship ties, or in some circumstances it might be a shared past experience such as former military leadership or land ownership. The particular kind of group characteristic that will qualify under this construction remains to be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, whatever the common characteristic that defines the group, it must be one that the members of the group either cannot change, or should not be required to change because it is fundamental to their individual identities or consciences. *Matter of Acosta*, 19 I&N Dec. 211 (BIA 1985).

We argued that "informers or witnesses" constitute a "particular social group" because all the members thereof share a

(continue on page 14)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Now Accepting Grants-In-Aid Applications

Are you a nonprofit organization? The State is now accepting applications for its Grants-in-Aid (GIA) for the 2019 Legislative Session.

The deadline to submit grant applications is 4:30 p.m. January 18, 2019.

Last year, the Legislature awarded about \$29 million in grants to organizations across the state for various public purposes recognized as priorities and seen as complimentary to state government functions, including health, educational, workforce development, social services and cultural and historical activities.

Information, instructions and applications on the GIA process are available on the Legislature's website at <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/>.



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Announces Inaugural Journalism Scholarship

By Edna Bautista, Ed.D.

To commemorate its 25th publication year in 2018, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle announces a new scholarship program for future journalists. The inaugural award of \$2,500 will be presented at the Chronicle's "silver celebration gala and scholarship awards banquet" in November 2019 to one deserving student who is a full-time, college-level sophomore, junior or first semester senior of Filipino heritage who has graduated from a high school in Hawaii and is majoring in journalism/mass communications at a four-year public or private university within the state.

Filipinos and Filipino-Americans represent the fastest growing ethnic group in Hawaii and make up 23 percent of the state's population. Filipinos and Filipino-Americans also comprise

the largest Pacific Islander cultural community in America but are under-represented in the fields of journalism/mass communications.

The Chronicle has established a scholarship program to support students of Filipino heritage who would like to pursue a career in journalism/mass communications.

"We need good journalists who are the 'eyes and ears of the community', and the Chronicle believes that we must build a pool of journalists in the future to safeguard our democracy and create a group that reports 'checks and balances' actions happening in the government and around us," said Chronicle Editor Chona Montesines-Sonido.

"With good reporting in place by well-trained journalists, we can secure a fair, informative and steady flow of news in our community and around the world. It is important that we support these

students who are preparing for their future in the media field," she said.

Eligibility

Journalism students are encouraged to apply for this specific scholarship. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be of Filipino descent (at least 25%)
- Be a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States
- Be a graduate from a high school in Hawaii
- Be enrolled full-time (at least 12 credits undergraduate) as a sophomore, junior or first semester senior at an accredited four-year public or private college/university in Hawaii
- Be a declared major in journalism/mass communications or media-related field
- Have a minimum cumulative (not term) 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale

- Serve in extra-curricular activities to show leadership potential, teamwork abilities, community service and well-roundedness
- Demonstrate financial need

Application Process

Scholarship information/instruction guide, application and recommendation forms may be downloaded from the Chronicle website at www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Applicants are required to submit a PDF packet, which includes a recent copy of their college transcript, references, writing samples, 1,000-word essay and proof of financial need.

Applications are accepted between Feb. 1-April 1, after which time, a panel of judges—a combination of educators and media practitioners—will review all completed packets and make the final selections.

The winner only will be

notified by the end of May or beginning of June. A profile article announcing that he/she is the recipient of the scholarship will be published in a summer edition of the Chronicle along with his/her photo and essay. The winner will be recognized formally at a scholarship banquet in November.

Applications and Donations Accepted

Additional application details and updates of the Chronicle's journalism scholarship program may be found on the newspaper's website at www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Questions may be addressed to the scholarship committee at hfcnews@yahoo.com.

Donations are also welcome to help fund, support and sustain the annual journalism scholarship program. To donate, please contact the Chronicle office at filipino-chronicle@gmail.com or call (808) 678-8930.



The staff of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle wishes you a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year! We also send a warm mahalo to our advertisers, readers, family and friends for their faithful support. We look forward to another year of productive service to the community. Wishing all of you a great year ahead!

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Security Measures to Be Enhanced at Ninoy Aquino International Airport

The Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu announced that the Philippine Department of Transportation is giving priority and attention to the implementation of new strict security measures at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (US DHS) conducted

an assessment and concluded on December 2018 that the Ninoy Aquino International Airport did not meet international standards.

The Philippine Department of Transportation is working on recommendations to meet safety standards including the installation of new equipment, X-ray machines, metal detectors, and alarm systems.

Free Health and Wellness Session for Seniors

The KupunaWiki invites the public for a free informative session “Achieving Whole Body Wellness” on January 19, 10-11 a.m. at the Hawaii Kai Retirement Community 428 Kawaihae St.

For the first class of the year, Dr. Sandee Shanti will talk about ways to achieve whole body wellness through mental, physical and emotional mindfulness. Learn about healthy weight management,

neuropathy and even how to avoid leaky gut syndrome. Also learn about KupunaWiki Concierge Service and how to get directly connected to KupunaWiki’s curated network of experienced local professionals.

Friends are welcome and encouraged. Reserve your seat by calling (808) 792-5188 or sending an email to info@kupunawiki.com.

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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

(Editor's Note: This is the second part of this article.)

Everyone Deserves the Opportunity to be Employed

Andria Tupola also advanced her thoughts on the same questions Ige was asked by *RespectAbility*. As to question asking for what policies and actions that can reduce the stigmas of people with disabilities (PwDs) that are barriers to employment, independence and equality, she said she will pursue a multifaceted awareness campaign that attacks stigmas from all angles. She maintains that the focus should be on the many abilities of PwDs, not disabilities which is a shift in mindset that starts with awareness. She said there is a need to create an expectation by employers and the government that employees with disabilities can succeed in

the workplace and that hiring PwDs makes business sense. This, to me, is a positive approach!

"But awareness among businesses and the government isn't enough", she said. People with disabilities should have the expectation themselves for a lifetime of meaningful employment... and parents should also believe in their children and encourage them to work if they are capable.

As to the question of having specific strategies for youth employment for people with disabilities, Tupola mentioned the awareness strategy would serve multiple purposes. They would both highlight the business case for hiring PwDs and create an expectation among our youth with disabilities and their parents that they have the capability for lifetime employment. We should prepare them with an

expectation to work, not an expectation to be on public welfare.

One way to achieve the goal for higher employment rates among youth with disabilities is to partner with existing organizations, whether advocacy groups or employment organizations. Schools likewise can better help our students succeed in transitioning into the workforce by coming out with programs focusing on students with disabilities. Schools need to maximize their resources with organizations like Project SEARCH and Easterseals. Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific was the first organization in Hawai'i to participate in Project SEARCH.

Another question she addressed is concerning the jobs of the future that will largely require post-secondary education because on the average,

only 65% of students with disabilities complete high school and only 7% complete college. She discussed policies that will support to enable students with disabilities, including those from historically marginalized communities and backgrounds, to receive the diagnosis, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or 504 plan and accommodations/services for them to succeed in school and be prepared for competitive employment.

"Since many who don't graduate high school end up incarcerated, the whole process begins early in a child's life," Tupola said. Many disabilities are not visible, and will be discovered as kids grow up, especially during school. Early intervention involves properly training teachers to be sensitive to students who might have disability. Early diagnoses mean that accommodations will come earlier so that students

with disabilities have a higher chance of graduating high school, improving their work prospects and lowering the odds they'll become incarcerated.

As for professional development for inmates with disabilities, we need to explore win-win solutions for both the general public and private entities. Tupola proposed public-private partnerships that will help inmates re-enter the workforce where inmates create a variety of products while in prison and gain transferable skills by the time they leave. This will serve our incarcerated people with disabilities to develop a mindset focused on each individual's needs, not on a one-size-fits all approach.

Moving on, let's recall a few most successful people with disabilities... just to show you that disability is not a hindrance to success. Despite their physical disabili-

(continue on page 15)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Pelosi Will Stand Up to Trump the GOP's Albatross

be united by a woman who cares about governing for the present and the future.

Contrast that with the man who has no empathy, the current president, the Trumpster, who cares for no one and does nothing that doesn't further his wealth or political power.

Trump is the bad grandpa. The guy who tells a seven-year-old on Christmas that believing in Santa Claus at that age is "marginal." He's the dirty old grandpa who grabs women's private parts, is being sued by a dozen women, cheats on his wife with porn stars and playmates. Oh, and did I mention you can't believe anything he says?

This is why the right demonizes Pelosi.

If you saw the swearing in with all the grandchildren, you'd have to admit, this is the kind of thing America has been missing. Amid all the natural disasters, Trump has had the chance to be comfort-in-chief and show the side a good president must have if he's to be "loved."

Trump's not interested in that. He shuts down the government over the funding of a racist wall, and really doesn't care who he hurts.

Pelosi's with the grandkids in the People's House

showing that there's love in government, if only the president would get over himself and compromise.

How much longer will this go on?

Well, expect Trump to reach some reversal when Republicans begin to realize that a shutdown is a losing proposition. Sen. Lindsey Graham said that a Trump cave-in to the Democrats would be the end of his presidency. Trump would be a sucker to listen to that. Compromise is the only way to save a Trump presidency.

Trump hasn't learned that yet and desperately tries to keep the talk on his call for a border wall.

But that wall is just a proxy argument for turning back the demographic tide. His so-called base of support are whites who hate the idea that America is becoming a country where the minorities are becoming the majority. The wall is a thinly veiled racist symbol.

But it's clear from the blue wave midterms and the arrival of all the women, Latinos, and African Americans, trying to stop diversity in America isn't going to happen.

Amid all the talk of the new members, the Filipino one of course, got left out. T.J. Cox, the newly elected rep-

resentative from the Central Valley of California (CA-21), has a Filipino mother, and a Chinese father. A Democrat representing parts of Fresno and Kern County, Cox actually had fewer votes on election night, but a late count earned him a victory.

Cox joins Bobby Scott, Democrat from the Virginia Hampton Roads area, who is African American and Filipino, as the Filipino's in the House. Maybe two-halves make a whole? It's an example of a uniquely Filipino diversity at play.

PELOSI

Now for those who think I've gone overboard on Pelosi, let me tell you I haven't always been as big a fan and have let her know it.

In 2007, the Filipino vets were still fighting for equity pay and a bill pushed by then Rep. Bob Filner of San Diego was in need of support.

Pelosi didn't back it. When asked why she had pulled out after years of support, she told the Filipino America media:

"I've been strong supporter of Filipino veterans for my entire service in Congress... to recognize their U.S. military service... The difference was that I became Speaker... Funding is the real debate. That's the competition for the

dollars that's where we are now."

Ah, the first time she was speaker. From that we should understand, Pelosi is a realist. She plays no sentimental favorites. Not even for her San Francisco fans.

It hurt back in 2007, and some vets died as the legislative battle continued for two more years.

Eventually, under Obama, an equity bill was passed.

Now she's back for a second go round as speaker.

And the problems and priorities are larger and more urgent.

From the first stint, we should know that Pelosi prioritizes and plays her hand the best way she can.

She knows the art of the deal the government way. It should give confidence when at times there seems to be little hope.

If Trump gets out of the way, I have no doubt Pelosi can get us out of this mess we're in.

But it will take some Republicans to understand Trump is no eagle, but an albatross.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was on the editorial board of the *Honolulu Advertiser*, and a columnist for the *Starr-Bulletin*. Twitter @emilamo

(COVER STORY: 2018: THE YEAR...from page 5)

and author of *Imagining the Filipino American Diaspora* and the forthcoming *Raced to Death: Racial Injustice in 1920s Hawai'i*, says "Nationally, racism has increased since the Trump presidency, evident in blatant expressions in the media by public figures and average citizens. However, in Hawai'i we need to remember that anti-Micronesian racism, perhaps the most extreme manifestation against any group here, emerged well before Trump was elected. Since the 1990s, Micronesians have replaced Filipinos as one of the primary targets of racism in Hawai'i, especially in terms of vile jokes being told about them. These jokes and other racist com-

ments about Micronesians, such as being 'cockroaches,' represent them as subhuman, which is a very common element in racism."

Professor Okamura says: "As I tell my students, racism is a systemic problem and is not limited to verbal expressions of racist comments or jokes. It should be understood as very much related to discrimination--unfair or unequal treatment. One of the first steps we can take to eliminate both racism and discrimination is to increase funding for public education, both at the K-12 and university levels. This will enable minority students to challenge the institutional racism they encounter by having greater opportuni-

ties to advance themselves socioeconomically."

Other notable stories presented in the HFC: Enough with guns and a culture of violence; Ban on bump stocks; Adopting children from the Philippines; Saving net neutrality and the free flow of the internet; U.S. and North Korea Summit: step in right direction; Time to change the Electoral College; A tribute to Filipino workers and the Labor Movement; National nursing shortage could be a health crisis; and Saving the Children's Health Insurance from cuts. To review any of the articles of 2018, visit the HFC website at www.thefilipinochronicle.com and search the archives.

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FEATURE

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series.)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

The Family Court is located in the Kapolei Court Complex across CostCo in Kapolei. There are fifteen judges, responsible for the thousands of cases of not just divorce, but also guardianships, adoptions, paternity, and juvenile justice. This four-part series focuses on divorce, to try to de-mystify the process.

Part One – The Process No Fault

Hawaii is a no-fault divorce state. Unlike many states there is no need to prove “grounds for divorce”. In Tennessee, for example, if only one of the spouses wants the divorce and the other doesn’t, the spouse asking for the divorce is required to prove adultery, cruelty, desertion, living apart for a set number of years, or any of the other several grounds, before its courts will issue a decree. In Tennessee, this burden of proof is only excused if both parties agree to the divorce. Under Hawaii’s no-fault model, the law does not require the parties to divulge and prove these private matters. As long as one party wants the divorce, the court will grant it on the grounds of “irreconcilable differences”. This takes the pres-

sure off husbands and wives seeking a divorce in Hawaii for getting evidence and helps reduce the emotional distress of the break-up. Either spouse must affirm under oath that the marriage is “irretrievably broken”.

Uncontested Divorce

As long as both husband and wife completely agree on all the issues, they can file an uncontested divorce packet. The forms are found on the Judiciary website. The couple has to agree on (1) legal custody of the children; (2) physical custody of the children; (3) visitation with the children; (4) amount of child support paid from one spouse to the other; (5) support and payment of the children during their college years; (6) spousal support, if any; (7) division of assets; (8) division of debts; (9) tax matters. The spouses fill in the information on all the forms, sign them, and can file all the documents together as a complete set, together with a filing fee at either the Kapolei courthouse or Punchbowl Street courthouse. If children are involved, the court clerk will schedule the family for attendance at a “Kids First” seminar, and the divorce will not be granted until the family attends this. If one of the spouses moves to the neighbor islands, however, and cannot

afford to come to Oahu, he or she can request to be excused from attending.

Being able to come to an agreement significantly reduces the stress of divorce because the parties have readied themselves mentally and emotionally for a clean break. They must be careful, however, to carry out the decree and not leave it hanging (such as not going through with a house sale or signing over assets to one another). An uncontested divorce can take as little as a couple of months, but for couples with children, not any sooner than the day after attendance at “Kids First”.

Contested Divorce

In Hawaii, as long as one party wants the divorce, the dissolution of the marriage will occur at some point unless they reconcile and call off the divorce. When a spouse calls me and I ask “what do you agree on?”, sometimes he or she answers, “we agree we want to get divorce” and not on much else. I recommend to them that they go back and keep discussing to get to agreement on all the issues noted above. People who are extremely unhappy in their marriage may not want to reach agreement, or may seek to get as much for themselves as they can even if it hurts the

other party, so they have a financial advantage. Often it is emotionally more difficult to have to go through a contested divorce.

The spouse seeking the divorce starts the case by filing a complaint in the Family Court. The filing can be done at either Kaahumanu Hale at the bottom of Punchbowl Street or the Family Court in the Kapolei Court Complex. The current filing fee is \$215 for a divorce without children and \$265 for a divorce with children. The filing spouse must then hire a process server to deliver the complaint and summons to the

(continue on page 13)

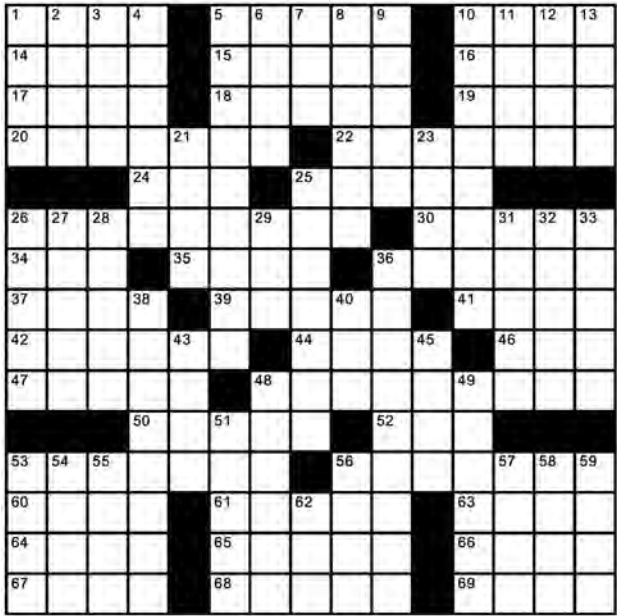
CROSSWORD Blg. 20 by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

- 1. Former Senator, Joey _____
- 5. Sudden occurrence of a disease
- 10. Just for men
- 14. Lying, maybe
- 15. Certain tribute
- 16. Sacred
- 17. Competed
- 18. Indian coin
- 19. Way, way off
- 20. Totaled
- 22. Crack
- 24. Bite
- 25. Deliver a quick blow to
- 26. Inedible or poisonous agaric
- 30. Bastard wing
- 34. Barley brew.
- 35. Border
- 36. First
- 37. Bog
- 39. Legume
- 41. Lay out
- 42. Display
- 44. Camera diaphragm
- 46. Time div.
- 47. High-pitched
- 48. Sculpturing
- 50. Overhang

DOWN

- 1. Basalt source
- 2. Footnote note
- 3. Want
- 4. Number next to a plus sign
- 5. Plutonic
- 6. Masterstroke
- 7. Bug
- 8. Beneficial
- 9. Draft holder
- 10. Lamb or mutton kebab
- 11. Good source of protein
- 12. Wing-like
- 13. Circular course
- 21. Affront
- 23. Cicatrix
- 25. Study of poetic works
- 26. Circus employee
- 27. Antipasto morsel
- 28. Cliffside dwelling



- 52. Balloon filler
- 53. Annual publication
- 56. Pronounced
- 60. Roulette bet
- 61. Beat
- 63. Barbershop emblem
- 64. Art subject
- 65. Architectural projection
- 66. Abbey area
- 67. Bone-dry
- 68. Have another go at
- 69. Large semi-evergreen tree of the East Indies
- 29. Tribute, of sorts
- 31. Savory taste sensation produced by glutamates
- 32. Keep or lay aside for future use
- 33. Beside
- 36. Stamp collection
- 38. Won over
- 40. French vineyard
- 43. Blue hue
- 45. Fast-moving card game
- 48. Free from danger or risk
- 49. Boring tool
- 51. Something in the air
- 53. Former copper coin of Pakistan
- 54. Frown
- 55. Calf-length skirt
- 56. Addict
- 57. Catch, in a way
- 58. Additionally
- 59. Adjudge
- 62. On, as a lamp

(Ang sagot ay ilalabas sa susunod na isyu ng Chronicle)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

NonImmigrant Visa for Trainees

There are several categories under which a foreigner may enter the US as a trainee and then return to his home country after the training is completed. These are B-1 (temporary business visitor); F-1 (student visa), H-3 (nonimmigrant trainee J-1 (exchange visitor), M (vocational student visa) and Q (cultural exchange visitor).

Certain factors will determine which of the different visas for foreigner-trainees should be applied for and obtained. These factors are: the purpose of the training; the length of time for training;

whether or not the foreigner will be paid; who will pay the salary; the relationship of the petitioner to the foreigner; the required education of the foreigner in order to participate in the training program; and the work experience required of the foreigner to participate in the training program.

The H-3 is the most common nonimmigrant visa for trainees. Under this visa, the trainee receives training in the US from the petitioner in any field of endeavor, other than graduate medical education or training, that is not available in the home country of the foreigner. If the H-3 nonimmigrant trainee visa is approved, it is valid for up to 2 years.

For the H-3 nonimmigrant trainee application, a training plan must be submitted by the petitioner in order for the foreigner to enter the US and receive the training. The training



plan must include the following information: the petitioner must specify and explain the program objective; why the petitioner seeks to train this particular foreigner; the duration of the training program; the salary or any remuneration offered; the timeline and description of the training on a weekly basis; identity of the person who will supervise, evaluate and train the trainee; and the standards for the evaluation of the trainee.

The petitioner should also

describe where the training will take place and the facilities therein; whether the instruction or training will in whole or in part be in a classroom format; the skills and knowledge the trainee will obtain through the program; if the trainee will have any productive employment, this should only be incidental to the training; explanation of how the trainee will use the knowledge and skills gained to further his career outside the US upon completion of the program; and description of the type of training and supervision to be given, and the structure of the training program.

It is also important to include the following: specify the time that will be devoted by the trainee to productive employment; how many hours will be spent, respectively, in classroom instruction and in on-the-job training; description of the work and career abroad that the training will prepare the foreigner for; reasons why such training cannot be obtained in the home country of the foreigner and why it is necessary for the foreigner to be trained in the US; the source of any remuneration received by the trainee and any benefit that will accrue to the petitioner for providing the training.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has rejected H-3 applications in the past on the following grounds: training plan did not state the fixed schedule of the foreigner, the objectives and means of evaluation of the foreigner; the training is incompatible with the nature of the petitioner's business or enterprise; and the trainee being petitioned already possesses substantial training and expertise in the proposed field of training.

The application will also be denied if: the training, knowledge or skill received in the US will unlikely be used outside the US; the training received will result in productive employment which is beyond that is incidental and necessary to the training; the trainee will be trained for staffing or work in the US permanently and not his home country; the petitioner does not have the facilities or skilled workers to provide the training specified; and the training is designed to extend the total allowable period of training previously authorized by the USCIS.

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

(FEATURE: WHAT YOU NEED....from page 12)

other spouse (at a cost of \$40 - \$100, depending on the company and location). The other spouse has twenty days to respond to the complaint (this is called filing an Answer).

At any time while the divorce is pending, the filing spouse can file a Motion for Pre-Decree Relief asking for temporary orders on child support, custody, payment of debts, alimony, use or control of assets, and other matters. The Motion will be set for a hearing and each spouse must present evidence that the judge will review before rendering a decision.

Each spouse then collects and obtains information needed by the court to make decisions and /or tries to negotiate agreement on all the issues in the divorce. This can take months or years depending on how entrenched a spouse is on getting what he or she wants, how open or not a spouse is on the valuation of the property and income, and how much a spouse wants to just be aggravating to the other. Besides being time consuming, the divorce process can also be expensive, unpredictable, frustrating, and stressful.

When I am called by someone who wants a divorce, I ask "what do you and your spouse agree on?" They often say, "we agree to get divorced" but admit they haven't agreed on anything else. I tell them go back and talk with their spouse to come to some agreement on everything, even if it is uncomfortable and emotionally difficult to do, because it will be costly, lengthy, and distracting if they keep fighting.

If you are in the position of seeking a divorce, try as best as you can to reach an agreement with your spouse about:

- (1) Child support (this must be paid per the Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, outside of exceptional circumstances as determined by the Family Court judge; may include life insurance)
- (2) Health insurance and educational expenses for the children, and post-high school expenses
- (3) Legal custody of the children (who makes major decisions)
- (4) Physical custody of the children (where the children will live)
- (5) Visitation (how and when

the children are picked up and returned, what vacations and holidays are spent with which parent, which weekends and/or weekdays are spent with which parent, expenses of travel for vacation, times for calling and internet facetime, etc.)

- (6) Division of marital assets, including retirement pay
- (7) Division of debts
- (8) Equalization payments, if any, to make the division of assets and debts fair to both parties
- (9) Tax exemptions, refunds, and liabilities

Coming to a fair and workable agreement with your spouse is the goal. It may not be possible in many divorces because one or both may be bent on getting an unfair advantage or making life miserable for the other one. The courts encourage divorcing couples to make their best effort to work out their own solution to the dissolution of their marital bonds. Try and keep at it and be sincere about getting a good faith, fair result for both of you and what is best for your children.



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DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Baro A Tawen, Baro A Rusat Ken Kapampanunotan

mangnayon kadagiti addang-na iti agdama. Hello Kompare, Komare! Ania dagiti pampanunoten nga aramiden ita a tawen tapno naragagsak, nanamnam-ay ti kasasaad. Naragagsak ken nataltalin-naay ngem iti naglabas. Kada maysa kayatna a panawan ti nakirut ken nasiksikur a kasasaad. Kayat a baliwan ti nataltalged ken nataltalinaay a biag.

Dagiti agtutubo panawenda met ti mangtan-aw ti naragagsak a masakbayan. Adda dagiti kayatnan ti agsimpa ta ar-arapaapenda ti naragagsak a kasasaad ngem iti agdama.

Itungpalnan ti ay-ayatenna tapno baro a biag sangalenda. Panawenen ti panagitungpal kadagiti ar-arapaapen a gunoden a kasasaad ken baro a panagbiag.

Pudno a marikna a naragagsak ti rikna a dumanon manen ti sabali a tawen no planoen ti sabali manen a kasasaad ti biag. Ken mabalin met nga itultuloy ti agdama a pampanunot ken kalkalikagum a sabali manen a tawen ket sabalian met ti agplano ken mangakem ti sabali a padas.

Naragsak a baro a tawenyo amin! Mantinerentayo ngarud dagiti ammotayo a wa-

ti sangoen a tawen agbalin a naragagsak ken nataltalin-genngen ti panagbiag.

Kadagiti agtutubo a kayatna ti mangirugi kadagiti nasged nga ar-arapaapda a sumreken iti baro a tawen nga inur-urayda a dumteng. **GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS!**

BARO A TAWEN MANEN

Adtoyak a siraragsak a mangwanwanawan
Ti natalged ken nagarbo a biag ti masakbayan
Dagiti kalkalikagumko a nataltalged a biag
Tapno naragsak a kanayon ar-arapaapko a lumtuad

Panawenen a lak-amek dagiti talged
Naglabas a panawen awanan ragsak
Nawatiwat a dana a kayat a malasat
Tapno ti biagko nataltalged naragagsak

Kalkalikagum ti biag kanayon a segseggaan
Pannakaitungpal amin a marikna a pakaragsakan
Tallikudan dagiti rimer a kanayon a nasakupan
Tapno sanguen dagiti nalinteg a masakbayan

Asino dagiti parsua a nakaited ballaigi
Adu ngamin nangtallikud nasayaat nga ugali
Mangiwalin maragagsakan a makipagili
Ket likudanna dagiti isem a kasayaatan nga ugali

Baro a tawen, baro a biag ken pakinakem
Arakupen tapno intay manen lak-amen
Naragagsak a biag nga intay il-iliwen
Tapno ditoy lubong agragsaktayo a sitatalingenngen

NARAGSAK A BARO A TAWENYO AMIN!

(WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?: WINNING IMMIGRATION...from page 7)

common, immutable characteristic." i.e., a characteristic that either is beyond the power of the individual members of the group to change or is so fundamental to their identities or consciences that it ought not be required to be changed." The applicant could not change the characteristic "informer or witness" even if she wanted to because it is immutable – "not capable or susceptible to change."

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/immutable>.

We claimed that the applicant was within that social group, namely, "informers or witnesses".

In Soriano v. Holder, 569 F.3d 1162, 1166 (9th Cir.2009), the Court of Appeals 9th Circuit had rejected the alien's proposed particular social group of government informants against a Filipino gang in the United

States. However, in a subsequent decision, Henriquez-Rivas v. Holder, 707 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir. 2013), the 9th Circuit held that the Board of Immigration Appeals erred in holding that witnesses who testify against gang members may not constitute a particular social group due to a lack of social visibility.

The Immigration Judge ruled in our favor, holding that

(continue on page 14)

((Sagot sa Krosword Blg. 19| December 22, 2018))

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN ASSOCIATION (FBWA) AND FBWA FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING | January 16, 2019; 6 PM | Max's of Manila Dillingham | For more details call: Vanessa Tan Kop- 441-0509, Nedy Directo 554-1535 and Nancy Walch 778-3832

TINIKLING FOR KIDS! A CHILDREN'S FILIPINO DANCE PROGRAM | January 26, 2019; 10-11 AM | Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, | For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

PMAH 41ST ANNIVERSARY & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | February 22, 2019; 5 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Ballroom | RSVP: By E-mail to pmahinfo@gmail.com or by calling 888-674-7624 by January 15, 2019

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII (FCCH) FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR | March 23, 2019; 6 PM | Ala Moana Hibiscus Ballroom | For more details call: Rose Galanto- 688-4458, Vanessa Tan Kop - 441-0509

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) PRESENTS THE MISS OAHU FILIPINA 2019 | June 1, 2019; 6 PM | Marriot Waikiki Beach Resort | For more details call: Calvin Bagaoisan- 266-4334, Maricelle Redona-295-5233, Raymond Sebastian - 799-6080

FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII (FNOH) EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS | August 10, 2019; 6 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts Coral Ballroom | For more details call: Lolita Echauz Ching- 387-7635, Luanne Long- 754-0594

MAINLAND NEWS

Bill Signed into Law that Ensures All Veterans Receive Full Housing Benefits

The Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act was signed into law that will ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reimburses veterans for missed or unpaid Forever GI Bill housing benefits.

Signed by President Donald Trump, the legislation was introduced by U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and John Boozman.

"Now that this bill is law, student veterans no longer have to worry about being shortchanged," Schatz

said. "Congress will also have more tools to make sure the VA does right by our veterans. I'm glad we were able to get this done."

Senators introduced the legislation to address the VA's failure to fully comply with reimbursement rates set by the Forever GI Bill. The improper payments resulted from IT systems that had not been properly updated and lack of internal processes to get the VA the necessary information about payment rates.

The Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act requires the VA to: end improper payments as soon as possible; establish a team of specialists who will be responsible to report to Congress a detailed plan to correct this egregious error; provide a report to Congress by July 2020 that identifies how many beneficiaries were impacted and to what extent, aggregated by state; and certify the department is fully compliant with the law.

(WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?: WINNING IMMIGRATION...from page 14)

our clients were credible witnesses and that the lady had suffered past persecution on account of membership in a particular social group and had a well-founded fear of future persecution if she were to return to her native country. It was a happy ending and an early Christmas present for the lovely

couple who are now living happily in Hawaii.

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.MilitaryandCriminal-Law.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.

(AS I SEE IT: EVERYONE DESERVES...from page 10)

hindrances in life, they have achieved a lot of successes in their lives. These courageous people have revolutionized the world with their courage, determination, strength, and extraordinary will. They have overcome all the odds/obstacles they faced and never let their disabilities come in their path to succeed and set exemplary examples to others.

Stephen Hawking, for example, despite having motor neuron disease which is a variant of ALS and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, he became the world's most famous living physicist who specializes in cosmology and quantum gravity. Moving with his wheelchair, it didn't stop him from lecturing widely, making appearances on television shows such as Star Trek: The Next Generation and The Simpsons — and planning a trip into orbit with Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic.

As to Helen Adam Keller, an American author, political activist and lecturer, she was the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She broke through the isolation ceiling imposed by a near complete lack of language that allowed her to blossom until she became known worldwide as a prolific author campaigning for women's suffrage, workers' rights, and socialism, as well as many other progressive causes.

Albert Einstein, on the other hand, despite having a learning disability, is the greatest scientist of the twentieth century and the greatest physicist of all time. He fought his disability (dyslexia) and entered into the world of theoretical physics where he changed the face of physics and science forever. His theory of relativity is said to be the most revolutionary

theory of physics which won him a Nobel Prize for his photoelectric effect theory in 1921.

The latest is Jessica Cox, born in 1983 in Sierra Vista, Arizona to William and Inez Cox, is the world's first licensed armless pilot, as well as the first armless black-belt in the American Taekwondo Association. She was born without arms due to a rare birth defect. She brings message of hope and perseverance to others. In an article written by Hilary Hunt, she got this quote from Cox: "I was actually born without both of my arms, and while people think that's got to be a very difficult life, in reality I feel blessed. I have this wonderful opportunity to show the world what can be done".

I agree with the saying that when everyone—including people who experience the most dif-

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ficult barriers to employment—has the chance to contribute, we give them the opportunity and we all benefit from it. Principal Deputy for Administration for Community Living (ACL) Sharon Lewis emphasized this on October 10, 2014 when she said: "Among working-age adults, most of us would likely agree that employment is a critically important part of our lives. Employment gives us a sense of purpose that comes with contributing to something bigger, offers a sense of pride in accomplishment, and for many of us, it is an important part of our identity. Working provides opportunities for social interaction, chances to learn and grow, and exposure to new people and new places. And, of course, it provides income through a paycheck"

Let's recognize people with all kinds of disabilities, together with seniors, who are contributing to the full development of our country! They deserve the best accolade on earth!

For feedbacks, comments... please email the author @ estiokoelpidio@gmail.com.

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