

EDITORIALS

Save Entitlement Programs; Vote Smart in 2020

It's no secret that entitlement programs – Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security – will be one of the big reform battles after the 2020 election. Clearly the victors of that election will decide what and how much changes to entitlements will take place – and politicians on both sides of the aisle are not shy about letting this be known as election day nears.

Senate President Mitch McConnell is already staging the battleground. He recently called the entitlement programs as the “real drivers” of the national debt, suggesting that this is where cuts must be made. Other Republican leaders like Senator Marco Rubio are using similar talking points.

President Donald Trump months earlier also submitted a 2020 budget proposal that called for cuts of \$845 billion from Medicare, \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid, and \$25 billion from Social Security.

That proposal, expectedly, had no traction because of the current Democrat-controlled House. But everyone knows that all major reforms are potentially “to be continued” until the next election or until one side gets a supermajority.

Changes not entirely bad, but comes with skepticism

One of the goals of any government program is to maximize efficiency, look for optimal ways to deliver services without wasteful spending. Characterizing all proposals to cut parts of entitlement programs cannot just be generalized as “bad” – especially when these programs which require huge sums of money must remain financially strong to survive the long-haul. Under President Obama's administration cuts to Medicare also has been made in certain areas and expanded in others without Democrats hardly calling foul on those changes.

But it's understandable that the Trump's administration calls for cuts comes with suspicion given the Republican party's record. They've unsuccessfully tried to privatize Social Security, attempted to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (just one-vote short), and rallied to turn Medicare into a voucher system. It's arguable that the GOP's plans for changes to entitlement programs historically have been to get government “hands off” as much as they can get away with.

So, yes, Americans have every right to be concerned when Republicans talk about cuts to entitlement programs. Just look at their record.

Priorities Questioned

The timing of these proposed cuts also have Americans upset. While it was perfectly fine to give corporations a \$1.5 trillion tax cut and increase by \$700 billion the Department of Defense Budget, both contributing to a record-breaking \$21 trillion debt – now Republicans suddenly are talking about the need to put a check on spending by cutting entitlement programs.

Their goal to add revenues to government's coffers by stimulating economic growth through the tax cuts has not worked. The billionaire corporations got what they wanted, but failed to reinvest those profits to benefit average Americans. No surprise, really. Now, the average American is expected to take on the extra burden of potentially doing with less in entitlement benefits that are needed to survive and just get by.

What's wrong with this picture?

Good stewardship of these programs, instead, should have been to strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security first, before handing out billionaire tax cuts. And if needed, billionaire corporations should have had to take on the extra burden to fund entitlement programs. The Republican party went about the process in reverse order – which reveals where their true priorities lie.

Evidently, the president and McConnell are feigning concern over strengthening entitlement programs. Their true intention is to let them carry on bare-bones, minimum.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

oll after poll shows that the big 3 social entitlement programs Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security are extremely popular among a majority of Americans, to both Democrats and Republicans alike. But historically, D.C. politicians haven't been on the same page in their advocacy of these programs.



For our cover story issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo brings attention to the high stakes of what the 2020 elections could mean for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Senate President Mitch McConnell (Republican) has come out blaming these entitlement programs as the “main drivers” of the national debt. President Donald Trump earlier proposed in his 2020 budget a wish-list that include major cut backs to all three programs. On the Democrats side, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said: “After exploding the deficit with his GOP tax scam for the rich, President Trump is once again trying to ransack, Medicare, Medicaid and the health care of seniors and families across America.” Hawaii's own, Senator Brian Schatz drew the partisan line on this issue, saying, “One party wants to expand Medicare and Medicaid and the other wants to cut them.” Find out in the article what some of the possible changes that could be implemented should Republicans regain control of both chambers of Congress and the presidency. Also, read some local residents' concerns about cutbacks and what these programs mean to them. Considering how impactful all three of these programs are to members in our community, we felt raising awareness on this issue of possible cutbacks is extremely important because not much attention has been given to it by the mainstream media. This definitely is one of the main issues voters should be informed about leading into election 2020.

Also in this edition, HFC's Mark Lester Sanchez contributes a Q&A with Cheyne Gallarde, an award-winning artist-illustrator whose artworks have been featured on local and national publications. He is best known for his Drag Race and queer pop arts. This local artist also raps about what it takes to make it in today's art world. See some of this talented artist's work accompanying the Q&A.

In our Health and Family section, we have an article by Letty Jacinto-Lopez on the harmful effects of sleep deprivation is to our bodies. Medical findings show that when you don't get enough sleep, your immune system is not able to properly protect the body from infection.

HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan contributes “New Public Charge Rule Could Limit Immigration,” an article on a new rule that could make certain immigrants inadmissible to the U.S. or prevent others already here from adjusting their status if they are determined to be a public charge (individual who receives one more designated public benefits for more than 12 months). But Atty. Seguritan writes there are exemptions from public charge. The new rule has been widely criticized by immigration advocates as discriminatory against immigrants who are poor and less educated.

HFC columnist Emil Guillermo, as he usually does, contributes an evocative article “Are You at Burning Man? Or Is That the Country That's Burning? The title alone should pique interest. HFC columnist Elpidio Estioko submits “A Communion with Nature: The Great American Road Trip,” a nice article to conclude the summer vacation season.

Lastly, get updated on the latest in local, national and international news impacting our community, including Senator Mazie Hirono's reaction to a new policy that would permit indefinite detention of migrant families and children.

I'd like to conclude by reminding Filipino clubs and non-profit organizations to get details of your last quarter events, fundraisers or holiday cultural celebrations submitted to us early so that we can include them in our community calendar.

Thank you for supporting your community newspaper. Until next time, warmest Aloha and Mabuhay!

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EDITORIALS

The So-Called Great Economy Is Actually Not Great for Majority of Americans

Americans keep hearing reports that the U.S. economy keeps growing. Good news for everyone, the average American might think. The public has been reminded of this “thriving” economy not just under the Trump administration, but formerly under the Obama administration. The media points to economic indicators to show proof of this upside – growing GNP-GDP and lower unemployment.

But why do average Americans feel all this talk of a booming economy hasn’t changed their life any?

The reason is simple – the “thriving” economy raved about is thriving only for a few in this country, the top income-earners and wealthy class, the stock portfolio group, not for most average Americans.

It’s long been accepted to most economists that GNP-GDP only shows a small picture of the overall economy. It might be the baseline that

shows general performance; but they do not reveal where that extra earnings are going to. It does not reveal the gross wealth gap and wealth distribution across the board.

Low unemployment also reveals little about what’s really going on – that many Americans are working multiple jobs to earn the same income of 30 or so years ago. Median wages adjusted for inflation keeps dropping over multiple decades. So the low unemployment rate really just looks good on paper.

The fact is the American economy is not doing well for a vast majority of Americans.

This economy that President Donald Trump touts as being “great” does not mean “great” for most Americans. Don’t be fooled; just look at your bank statements and how much and how often you’ve been working with little to no improvement.

It’s actually been a slippery slide for working-class Americans for quite some time now. The wealth gap between rich and poor in this country has been accelerating since the 1980s when Reaganomics, otherwise known as trickle down economy, has entrenched itself as the major economic philosophy the U.S. has embraced up until the present.

Wealth inequality

While two-thirds of Americans have been living pay check to pay check for decades now. In this same period, the number of American billionaires keep rising.

Most Americans have scant savings, little wealth. Most of their money go to daily essentials like housing (rent or mortgage, utilities), food, insurances (health, car, home) that all keep rising faster than income. Most Americans are only able to save less than 10 percent of what they earn after paying off bills and essential consumption. The wealthy tend to save over 50 percent of their income (and remember they tend to have higher mortgages, bills, etc.).

The richest 1 percent’s wealth is growing faster. In fact, the richest 1 percent now own 40 percent of the entire nation’s wealth. The bottom 80 percent own just 7 percent.

Ironically, since the latest great recession in the 2000s (2007-2009) which was triggered by wealthy Wall Street lenders in the subprime mortgage crisis, the top 1 percent has captured about 95 percent of the income gains. The rich who caused the recession, and was bailed out by the government, actually got richer.

What income inequality does

Income inequality is not just some harmless statistic that

the poor and middle-class are complaining about. It has real-life consequences to millions of Americans who find themselves on the bottom end.

Data from the UN and World Bank comparing the richest economies in the world show how far apart or closer the income gap has a direct correlation to the quality of life.

For example, data measuring how much richer are the richest 20 percent in each highly industrialized country than the poorest 20 percent reveals a lot. On the lower end, countries with less inequality such as Japan (3.4 percent), Finland (3.7), Norway (3.9) fare far better than countries with the largest inequality gap, the U.S. (8.5), Portugal (8.0), and the UK (7.2).

What researchers found is that countries with more equality (again, comparing only top economies of the world) do better than countries with higher inequality in the following ways: Life Expectancy, Math & Literacy, Infant mortality, Homicides, Imprisonment, Teenage births, Obesity, Mental Illness, Drug and Alcohol Addiction and Social Mobility.

Japan, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands (all at the low inequality end) fared better on all those measures above than the U.S., Portugal, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Greece and Italy (countries with highest inequality).

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EDITORIALS: SAVE ENTITLEMENT...from page 2)

Politically, due to the overwhelming popularity of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, Republican lawmakers must at least publicly project concern and support of these programs while the details in their proposals reveal the opposite.

Polls consistently show that the big three safety net programs remain popular among both Democrats and Republicans. Pew Research Center found just 15 percent of Republicans and 5 percent of Democrats supported a reduction in Medicare spending.

Going forward

The goal of where to take Medicare going forward is a huge divide: Democrats (at least the progressive wing) seeks to expand Medicare to Medicare-for-all (what that would look like is still to be determined, whether the two would operate independently or not) while Republicans are advocating cuts to what we already have.

There are different prescriptions to keep Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security solvent; but they’re often lumped into one discussion, in part, because they all are offshoots of Social Security.

Social Security was created in 1935. Then in 1960, Social Security benefits were allowed to be collected earlier than retirement age for disabled workers. In 1965, the Social Security Act was amended to provide medical insurance to Social Security beneficiaries age 65 and older. It became later known as Medicare.

Social Security has faced multiple challenges in decades but found ways to continue. Payroll tax rates, adjustments benefits, possible change to the eligible retirement age, earning limit increase are just a few ways that are being explored to keep Social Security solvent. Medicare is far more complex because the complexities of the healthcare industry. Medicaid is arguably what keeps the U.S. from becoming a third world country.

There are many ways government invests in its people like through education. Entitlement programs should be viewed in the same way. They are investments in our people, our seniors, our disabled, and our poor. All of these more vulnerable segments of society have and continue to contribute to our country. Politicians must have Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security among the highest of priorities; and voters must let politicians know that they’re serious about protecting these programs, even if it means voting them out should they waver on this commitment.

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Medicare and Social Security Cuts Loom Heading into 2020

By Edwin Quinabo

Based off early massive mobilization of both the Democratic and Republican parties, election 2020 is shaping out to be one of the most highly anticipated. Some are framing a narrative of the election as being dramatic as saving democracy and restoring American values. Some are looking to bottom line, pocketbook issues like the economy or affordable healthcare.

What's not being talked about much but could impact the lives of tens of millions of Americans is possible cuts to the "big three" entitlement programs: Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Senate President Mitch McConnell (Republican-Kentucky) has already blamed entitlement programs for the country's colossal national debt, giving Americans insight into what his legislative priority would be after 2020.

President Donald Trump's wish-list for his 2020 budget proposal included a cut of \$845 billion from Medicare, \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid, and \$25 billion from Social Security.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's take on the GOP's move: "After exploding the deficit with his GOP tax scam for the rich, President Trump is once again trying to ransack Medicare, Medicaid and the health care of seniors and families across America," she said.

Advocates of the "big three" say they want Americans to know should Republicans win big – regain control of the presidency, Senate, House – these entitlement programs will be vulnerable. They predict the PR spin would be: cuts must be sacrificed to mitigate the mounting debt (an idea lost to GOP leadership when passing the corporate tax cuts).

Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz (Democrat) hoped to draw a clear line on the partisan divide when he said, "One party wants to expand Medicare and Medicaid and the other wants to cut them."

Concerns over cuts

Remy Pascual, 71, of Moanalua is a widow who lives with her daughter's family. She expressed anxiety over talks of cutbacks to social programs. "I get nervous every time I hear about possible cuts. The cost of living in Hawaii is so expensive, we seniors could use the help," she said.

Pascual has diabetes and spends over \$400 a month in out-of-pocket costs to pay for her prescription drugs. In addition to that, Medicare premiums and health coverage cost her several thousands more annually. She relies on Medicare

to help pay for needed medications and doctor visits. "Without Medicare, I would not be able to afford health care," she said.

"I am lucky because my husband was able to make investments before he died. I have one rental that I can get some money from besides my Social Security. But even with these sources of monthly income, I am still struggling. Health care is so expensive. I imagine other seniors are also having an even harder time. Many seniors don't have income coming in besides SS and other illnesses could cost more money than mine.

"If Medicare and Social Security are cut, seniors like me and so many others will feel it and hurt. This is not the way to treat our old people. Many seniors will end up not getting care because they will not be able to afford it. Many of us worked all our lives and put into the system. We deserve what we're getting. Actually, we should be getting more, not less," said Pascual.

Gerry Romualdez, 53, works in the hotel industry and said he is depending on Social Security to be there for him when he retires. "I've been giving money each pay check

all this time, over 33 years. You bet this is something important to me.

"Why these guys (politicians) can give big tax cuts to the rich then get stingy with the workers – not fair. They cannot see workers are having a hard time?"

"We already got to be so old before we can get our Social Security benefits. I hear they want to raise the age even higher. That's crazy. It's like they just taking our money and want us to die before we can collect," said Romualdez.

The retirement age to collect full Social Security benefits is 66 years and is expected to rise to 67. Early retirement with less benefits is still available at 62. There have been talks to raise the retirement age to 70 by 2035.

The average payout benefits of Social Security to an individual is \$14,000 annually that more than 55 million Americans receive. Social Security is estimated to be funded through 2032.

Medicare: current cost and possible changes

The average senior citizen pays over \$7,600 for health-care through Medicare. Costs vary depending on a senior's



health and need for additional medications and hospital care.

Medicare provides health coverage to nearly 60 million seniors and disabled Americans. It is divided into four parts: A (hospital insurance), B (medical insurance), C (Medicare Advantage or supplementary coverage), and D (prescription drug coverage). Parts A and B are known as "Original Medicare" that most seniors have. Part A is mostly free (no premium) but has a cap deductible for hospital stays. Part B has both a premium and deductible.

Some seniors elect to buy additional coverage, Part C, to cover the gap costs of Parts A and B. Other seniors buy Part C which has tier programs suited for seniors based on prescription medication needs and financial ability.

When health conditions arise, the out-of-pocket costs rises. For example according to www.medicare.gov, a Medicare enrollee who has diabetes could pay up to \$10,200 a year, for congestive heart failure up to \$11,400, or someone who had a heart attack more than \$12,000.

What cuts could mean to Medicare enrollees? Experts say possible cuts to Medicare might affect Part C and make out-of-pocket costs for drugs more expensive.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget esti-

mates that 85 percent of these cuts would come from reductions in provider payments that would affect hospital and other health facilities' reimbursement they get from the federal government.

Cuts would be an additional burden on hospitals to shoulder and in the long term could affect Part A of Medicare for enrollees (now currently free).

Charles N. Kahn III, president of the Federation of American Hospitals, which represents more than 1,000 for-profit hospitals and health systems, said the budget "imposes arbitrary and blunt Medicare cuts. The impact on care for seniors would be devastating."

He said, "Hospitals are less and less able to cover the cost of care for Medicare patients; it is no time to gut Medicare."

Experts say no one knows exactly how cuts would change the entire system and how much Medicare enrollees will ultimately have to pay.

If and when lawmakers take on reforming these entitlement programs, the result could look entirely different from what's being proposed.

Medicaid and Social Security

Republicans expressed plans to change the current

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COVER STORY

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Medicaid system of “pay-as-needed” (federal government gives states assistance based on need) to a “market-based health care grants” which is a system of lump sum federal assistance based on per capita allotments. Under this new system, the federal government assistance will be capped and the state must come up with the rest of the money to help Medicaid enrollees.

The federal government would also have new requirements for recipients on food stamps and federal housing support.

Plans to cut Social Security involves the SS Disability insurance program – basically cutting in half retroactive pay to qualified disabled persons.

Cuts—all in the name of the deficit

Political analysts say plans to cut entitlement programs was mulled around under former Republican administrations and even before the massive corporate tax cuts. But the \$1.5 trillion tax cut and close to \$700 billion budget for the Department of Defense have created a sense of urgency. In just one year alone, the national deficit grew 17 percent to \$779 billion in 2018. The overall national debt is more than \$21 trillion.

McConnell says the real drivers of debt are the entitlement programs.

But these programs have not undergone major changes since McConnell became ma-

majority leader while the deficit has increased 77 percent since he became majority leader in 2015.

Senator Marco Rubio (Republican-Florida) expressed similar talking points: “You have got to generate economic growth because growth generates revenue. But you also have to bring spending under control. And not discretionary spending. That isn’t the driver of our debt. The driver of our debt is the structure of Social Security and Medicare for future beneficiaries.”

Democrats say the projected revenues by the tax cut has not materialize. Congressman Tim Ryan (Democrat-Ohio) said, “Now, they’re going to try to come for hardworking people to foot the bill by slashing Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. We can’t let them.”

“In budget after budget, Congressional Republicans have exposed their cynical agenda: give massive, unpaid-for handouts to further enrich big corporations shipping jobs overseas and the wealthiest 1 percent, and stick seniors, children and families with the bill,” said Pelosi. “Under the GOP’s twisted agenda, we can afford tax cuts for billionaires, but not the benefits our seniors have earned.”

The U.S. is spending \$804 billion more than it makes in revenues each year. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the economy will slow down to an average

of 1.9 percent between 2018 and 2028, which could widen the spending-to-revenue collection gap.

Democrats are calling out the hypocrisy of Republicans on the national deficit. Under the Obama administration, keeping spending down was a focal point and the argument used against Obama initiatives time and time again. An entire wing of the GOP, the Tea Party, was created for the sole purpose of bringing the deficit down. Since Trump took over, spending has gone up and the Tea Party is long gone and dead.

Entitlement Programs remain popular among Americans

Polls consistently show that the big three safety net programs remain popular among both Democrats and Republicans. Pew Research Center found just 15 percent of Republicans and 5 percent of Democrats supported a reduction in Medicare spending.

In the same poll, just 10 percent of Republicans and 3 percent of Democrats want to see a reduction in Social Security funding.

In a Kaiser Family Foundation survey asking respondents to choose between increasing or decreasing funding for

“The (proposed) 2020 budget imposes arbitrary and blunt Medicare cuts. The impact on care for seniors would be devastating. Hospitals are less and less able to cover the cost of care for Medicare patients; it is no time to gut Medicare.”

— CHARLES N. KAHN III, President of the Federation of American Hospitals

Medicare and Medicaid: 57 percent of people wanted more Medicare spending while just 6 percent wanted a cut; 40 percent Medicaid compared to 12 percent who support a decrease.

Trump said. Trump, as a presidential candidate, vowed not to touch the entitlement programs; then as president, released a wish-list of cuts in his 2020 budget proposal.

Fact from fiction

While Democrats have a proven track record in Congress consistently supporting entitlement programs and Republicans have attempted to undermine them through privatization proposals and other cuts, President Trump has been trying to flip the facts.

“(The Democrats) are going to hurt your Social Security so badly, and they are killing you on Medicare. I am going to

2020 Election

Political pundits and analysts are beating the drums, informing Americans how important the 2020 election is. Supporters of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security are echoing the gravity of what’s at stake, come 2020 election day. But their focus is square on saving the programs that they need to survive as a basic necessity.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AARP Gives Free Seminars on Fraud Prevention

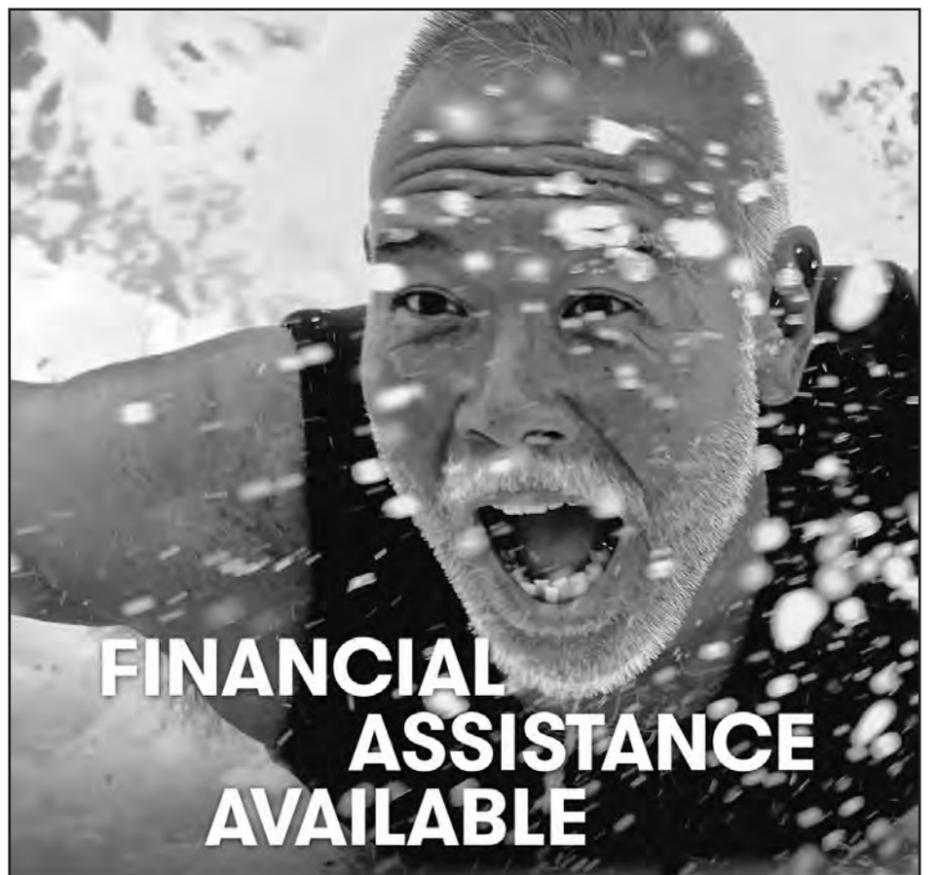
AARP Hawai‘i is holding free seminars in September to teach you how to fight back against Hawai‘i’s Top Frauds. They will teach people how to recognize the top reported frauds in the state and learn how to protect themselves from scammers.

The seminars will be held in Waipahu, on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at the Hawaii Okinawan Center from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; in Kaneohe on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Hale Akoakoa Rooms 101 and 02 at Windward Community College from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and in Makiki on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the



Catholic Charities Hawaii Community Hall on Keeaumoku Street from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The seminars are free, but you must preregister by calling 1-877-926-8300 or online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/HIFraud9-19>. You don’t have to be an AARP member to attend and all ages are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.



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FEATURE

ATMOSPERA-WALCH UNPACKS 2019 FCCH AGENDA

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch was recently installed President of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) in an overflow crowd at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom.

Atmosfera-Walch, or Dr. Nancy as she is popularly called, is the newest president of the 65-year old FCCH, the largest Filipino community organization in the United States. Founded in 1954 with only 47 charter members, the organization grew and launched the “Decade of Progress” with 88 members. A couple of years earlier, it sponsored the First Trade Mission to the Philippines after hosting the world-famous Bayanihan Dance Company in Honolulu.

“The Future of FCCH”

Dr. Nancy’s Agenda for FCCH is collectively entitled “The Future of FCCH: Advancing Economic Outcome,” in keeping with the focus of the organization with her at the helm. She aims to achieve these outcomes through the following agenda:

1. Broadening opportunities for Filipino entrepreneurs

and member businesses;

2. Strengthening business links between Hawaii and the Philippines;

3. Accelerating the promotion of the professional growth of its members; and

4. Supporting and uploading the well-being of all FCCH members.

These are lofty and ambitious goals but Dr. Nancy is ready for the tasks ahead. She is busy preparing for the next Trade Mission to the Philippines in October to establish vital and stronger connections between Hawaii and the Philippines. The Chamber has regularly hosted trade missions and delegations from its counterparts in the Philippines which are eager to pursue entrepreneurial interests in Hawaii.

Usually, these trade missions to the Philippines are headed by State and Local officials such as the Governor of Hawaii and City and County Mayors of Honolulu and the neighbor islands.

Over the years, Hawaii has developed “sister relationships” with selected constituencies in the Philippines which are usually provinces, cities and municipalities.

The cultural, social and political considerations for these trade missions and exchanges

are important to consider to facilitate the pace and activities of the exchange activities. It is noted that these exchanges are usually more popular with constituencies in the Philippines which have heavy populations of Filipino origin and ancestry, such as the Ilocos region, the Metro Manila area, and some regions in the Visayas. The Ilocano population alone constitutes up to 90 percent of the total state population of the State of Hawaii.

FCCH Activities over time

For its part, the FCCH regularly undertakes workshops, seminars, and relevant programs to enhance and help achieve its goals. These are designed to encourage the younger generation to pursue careers in business, management and related fields. Every year, the FCCH conducts and selects an “Entrepreneur of the Year” and a separate “Young Entrepreneur of the Year” designed to tap promising individuals who will want to consider a business-related field in their future careers.

The scholarship program has also paid valuable dividends for young adults about to enter college but lack financial assistance.

The major achievement of the FCCH in recent months has been the acquisition of grant-in-aid fund \$25,000 from the State Legislature to be administered by the State Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). This is really a boon to the FCCH considering that it can only tap into smaller funding institutions for its survival.

Key leaders of the organization lobbied hard the Legislature to seek this much needed funding to pursue its major goals and programs.

Fortunately, Dr. Nancy is a human dynamo of tireless energy and determined leader. Seeing her in action with a range of various physical and social skills makes you think she must be coming from another planet.

She has been in the work-



Nancy Walch with her husband, Gerhart, during the FCCH installation of officers.

place confronting daunting challenges, first as a nurse for several years at the Queen’s Medical Center, and later as her own person with an entrepreneurial bent as the President and CEO of the company she built with the catchy name of ADVANTAGE Health Care Providers, Inc., which has a contract with the State of Hawaii to provide health services to the “Special Population” in the community, i.e., Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) on Oahu, Maui and Kauai. These are highly needed services by some 22,000 individuals with these disabilities, but only 20 percent of them have access to needed health care services.

On top of all the various tasks and chores as a “Walking Health Provider,” Dr. Nancy decided she could do more by going to Graduate School at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to pursue a professional Doctor’s Degree in Nursing. She went back to school reading, writing, doing field work and finally sitting down to write her doctoral dissertation.

In time, she finished her Doctor of Nursing (DN) and her doctoral dissertation “Improving Safety Through Structural Empowerment” has been included as part of the College’s “Just Culture” model curriculum.

Subsequently, her dissertation earned the Dean’s Scholarly Project Award at the College of Nursing. She defended it with ease before an

academic panel, which included an outside member noted for his expertise on Nancy’s dissertation theme.

Finally, Dr. Nancy was selected as a member of the College Hall of Fame Award in recognition of her exemplary leadership and performance as a Nursing Professional.

Conclusion

Dr. Nancy’s biggest job as the current president of FCCH is to elevate the organization to appreciable levels of continuity and sustainability, which is a daunting challenge. This is often referred to as the process of “institutionalization,” which gives any organization its basic reference focus and continuing viability.

Her predecessor, Vanessa Tan Kop, has written a very substantive Review Report, indicating the main achievements of FCCH during her term. These include the centerpiece activity, the Trade Mission to the Philippines, to look into investment and tourism opportunities, and continuing dialogues and conversations about the feasibility and viability of future ventures.

Other initiatives like the strategic planning retreat, professional seminars, the Hawaii-Philippines Business Symposium, partnership with the Filipino Community Center (FilCom), fundraising drives and the annual event honoring the awardees for Filipino Entrepreneur, Filipino Business Executive, and the Scholarship Program, and more.

(continue on page 14)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Are You at Burning Man? Or Is That The Country that's Burning?



By Emil Guillermo

O'm sure there are some Hawaii folk at Burning Man.

Volcanic people can take the heat. The high desert of Nevada is nothing.

I'm thinking about the eccentric arts festival, one of the biggest in the world, because as I drive around where I am in the San Francisco-Bay Area, if the traffic seems lighter this week, it's because everyone who is anyone is said to be at Burning Man.

Not me.

Burning Man is not to be confused with an innocent person caught in the Amazon fires. Nor does it refer to the president, whose ears are at least burning and not just because everyone is talking about him.

Burning Man is the art festival that people go to every year to vacate from life and seek their utopian vision.

I'm not there, but I know people who go. Most of them are white, free-spirited, well tattooed nudists. But generally good people. Rich folks. Tech folks. Biker folks. One of my friends is one of the organizers who actually plans and carves out the city known as Black Rock. To her, BM is the grand societal experiment. An instant self-governing city.

A huge weeklong party in the dust for 70,000 or so fun loving souls. And then in the end, people pick up and leave no trace.

The wild is wild again. And the week-long wild go back to their normal lives.

But in the second Burning Man of the Trump era, it just seems strange.

Like everything else, Trump turns everything on its head.

Going to Burning Man these days seems to me like Rome fiddling while Nero burns.

And make no mistake—Trump/Nero is burning.

Much of it is from fake news of Trump's own making, which only indicates his lack of seriousness in representing all of America to the world.

We've already come off a strange week of Trumpster fires when the president announced that he'd move for U.S. companies to get out of China.

Can a president drop a bomb like that just before he goes off to the G-7 summit?

By the end of the weekend, the president said it was just a joke.

You know, like when racists say stuff about Asians and Asian Americans.

Did Duterte take it as a joke?

But by the start of the new week, Trump had already lied about all sorts of things at the G-7, including missing a key meeting on climate change, lying about it, and then proclaiming himself an all-knowing "environmentalist."

Signing an environmental impact report to justify your real estate deal does not exactly make one John Muir.

But this is how "the chosen one" thinks, and over the last few days, the leader of the free world continues to top himself, making embarrassing, incomprehensible

statements that can only be described politely as erratic behavior.

There's only one way Trump can possibly live with himself and save face through all this. And that is to think his money—unverified by his sheltered tax forms—somehow makes him smarter, better, or somehow immune from criticism. He's president, after all.

But at some point, with more than 10,000 lies in the fact-check bank, and with the balance growing with interest, we have to assess the real damage an incompetent president does to the country, the presidency, and the enduring institution of democracy itself.

The president of the United States, whomever he or she is, is the standard bearer of what it means to be free. When the president talks about being president for life, or praises dictators and strongmen around the world for their autocratic actions, degrades immigrants, bans Muslims, harasses people of color...the list goes on and on since the beginning of his short tenure.

So much for satirists to feast on. But satirists make fun of pomposity. When the pomposity is really the feeble mind of Trump on display, it's

no longer a joke.

We should apply the mercy rule, shouldn't we?

Especially when political leaders laugh behind Trump's back. Our patriotic self-interest must get involved. They're laughing at us.

The problem is Trump's incompetence is becoming so normal. We come to expect the reality show president to say something dumb, like suggesting to buy Greenland or to use nukes to thwart hurricanes.

Or how about banning citizenship to the offspring of military personnel serving abroad? That needed clarifying.

Or building a wall by the election by seizing properties that get in the way—with assurances that an administration folks who do the king's bidding by stretching the rules would be pardoned.

Dismissed later as a joke. But who's laughing?

Trump's no longer thinking out of the box. He's just out of his mind.

Normalization of it all only makes people look to vacate responsibility. Or to stop pointing it out.

Frankly, once you call Trump a lying, racist misogynist creep, what do you do? Simply wait for 2020?

We've become so used to

the Access Hollywood president that many people are just starting not to care.

And that's dangerous.

We should continue to point it all out. Ad infinitum. Everyday it's sure to be something. That's the MO.

Has been since 2017.

We could stop and look to utopian visions like Burning Man and seek solace in a completely made up community in the middle of the desert. We feel good and we forget.

Burning Man, of course, is far from perfect. In recent times, some people say even Burning Man with its special corporate sponsorships and high ticket prices, has sold out.

Its utopian sense has evolved—just like our country and democracy in the era of Trump. And not for the good.

And in the end we come back to the man who keeps feeding the Trumpster fire.

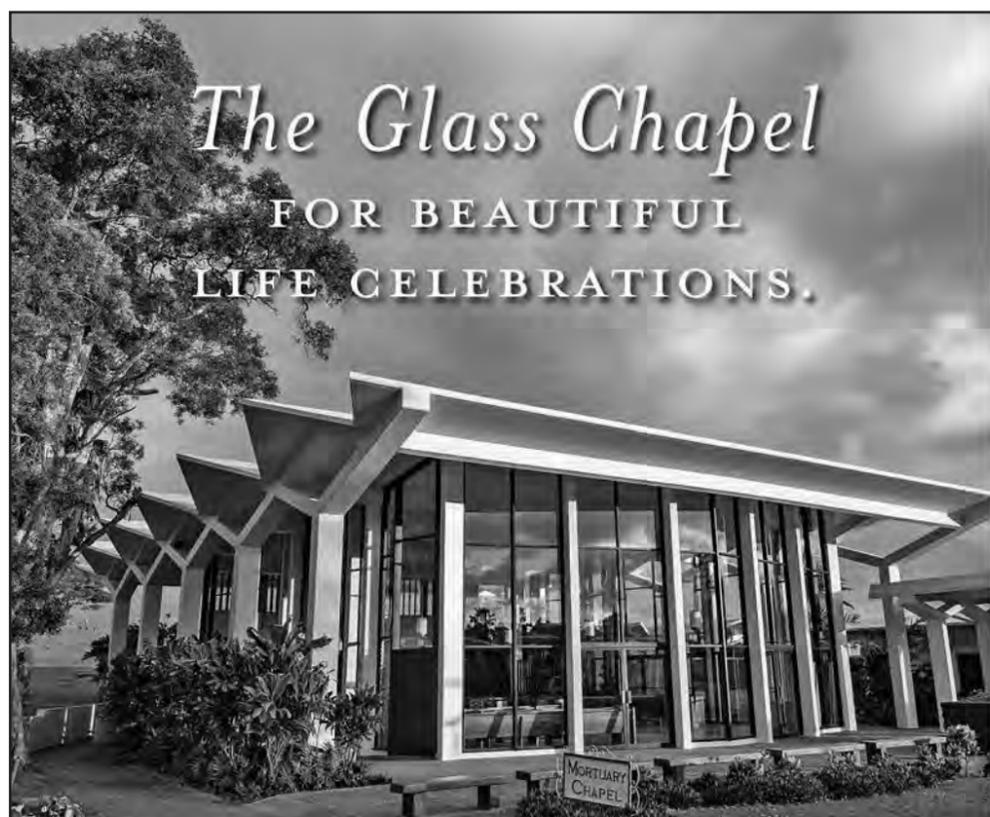
As I said, Trump turns everything on its head.

If you're at Burning Man, that's cool.

But these days Burning Man feels especially odd and hedonistic.

It's Rome fiddling while Nero burns.

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EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was a member of the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board. Listen to him on Apple Podcasts. Twitter @emilamok.




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Q & A

AWARD-WINNING SELF-TAUGHT FIL-AM ARTIST GAINS SOLID REPUTATION IN ILLUSTRATION WORLD

By Mark Lester Sanchez

Gheyne (pronounced “Shane”) Gallarde was merely 13 years old when he figured he would spend the rest of his life pursuing art. He just won Waipahu Intermediate School’s yearbook cover contest at the time, and the early experience had tugged at a creative string inside him. “It was a life changing moment,” he tells his audience at the TEDx Honolulu in 2015, which is available to watch on YouTube. After seeing his design handed out to his classmates, he determined it was the most sensible thing to do. “At thirteen,” he beams at the giggling spectators, “even at that young age, I was so certain with what I wanted to do with my life.”

Since then, Mr. Gallarde color-penciled his way up the industry’s competitive ladder. With artworks featured on local and national publications, a national TV network, and an online streaming company, he gained quite a solid and profitable reputation as a quality illustrator, mainly on creating Drag Race and queer pop arts, which he’s mostly known for. He’s neither foreign to winning awards as well: he won two Advertising Awards with LogoTV this year, and a Pele Award at the Rainbow Festival in 2012.

Mr. Gallarde answers some of our questions, through email, on his journey as a self-taught artist in Hawaii.

HFC: *Could you tell me about your journey as a self-taught artist? How did you get into illustrating?*

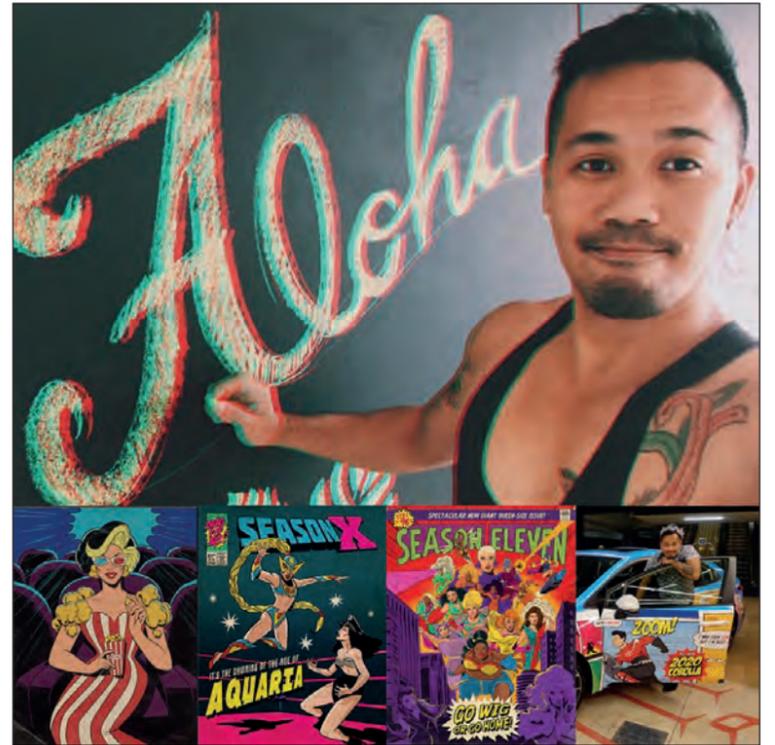
GALLARDE: My artistic journey started in elementary school when I entered an art contest and sketched for the Waipahu Sugar Mill using only pencil and paper. My sketch was selected to be displayed at the Pearlridge Shopping Center and I remember

being so proud seeing it there. In 7th grade, I won the Waipahu Intermediate Yearbook Cover contest. The prize money was a mere \$25 but it was then that I realized I could make a living as an artist. I continued to draw in high school, illustrating for the Waipahu High School newspaper. In college, I focused on graphic design but then dropped out and found an internship at some independent magazines. Over the next decade or so, I reintroduced illustration into my design work while at the same time developing my photography hobby into a full-time career. For eight years I was a professional photographer and had an art exhibit titled “Wat School You Wen Go?” at the Spalding House Contemporary Art

Museum. In 2015, I retired my camera gear and started drawing again. In 2016 I collaborated with local author and playwright Lee Cataluna, illustrating her first Children’s book, “Ordinary Ohana”. Since then, I’ve had the honor to illustrate for VH1, Toyota, Condé Nast, COACH, Penguin Books, and I’ve won 3 Advertising Awards for my illustrations.

HFC: *Could you tell me about your first break into the artistic world, and how that made you feel and changed your life?*

GALLARDE: My first art sold to a stranger was a photo I had on display during Chinatown’s First Friday in 2009. Up until then, I was shooting photos for fun, but



Cheyne Gallarde with some of his works.

after that sale I was reminded that my art has value.

HFC: *What got you into illustration? You mentioned on your website that you’re into vintage comics. Could*

you tell me more about that?

GALLARDE: I’ve been interested in illustration since age 7. I have a background in theatre and film, so illustration

(continue on page 11)

“Targeted na therapy ba ang isang opsyon sa paggamot ng kanser ko sa baga?”

OKAY
LANG
MAGTANONG



HINDI LAHAT NG KANSER SA BAGA AY PAREHO.
ANG INYONG PAGGAMOT AY HINDI DIN DAPAT KAPAREHO LANG NG SA IBA.

Kung inyong matutukoy ang sanhi ng paglaki at pagkalat ng inyong kanser, maari niyong target-in ito sa pamamagitan ng paggamot. Sa ganitong paraan gumagana ang targeted na therapy. Ang mga targeted na therapy ay tinutumbok ang mga “biomarker” ng kanser, mga gene mutation na sanhi ng paglaki at pagkalat nito. Kung mayroon kayong stage IV na kanser sa baga, ang pagkuha ng biomarker testing ay kinakailangan. Matutulungan kayo nitong matukoy kung ang targeted na therapy ay maaaring gumana para sa inyong kanser. Kung ang pagsusuri ng inyong stage IV na kanser ay positibo sa ilang mga biomarker, kabilang ang EGFR, may opsyong targeted na therapy na maaaring tama para sa inyo.

Tanungin ang inyong doktor tungkol sa targeted na therapy. Tandaan, okay lang magtanong.

EGFR: Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

A Communion with Nature: The Great American Road Trip

the Waikiki, Lanai, and Ewa Beaches and the hike to the Diamond Head Crater.

The Great American Road trip was likewise an outdoor experience going through rugged terrains of the four adjoining US states: California-Nevada-Arizona-Utah.

My family ventured on a 10-day road trip to said four states! It was a master plan broached by my children from Jacksonville, Florida (son Jojo and wife Alvi with their two children Kayla and Bibay); Tweety from Oahu, Hawaii (her husband Jonathan Rasay wasn't able to join us); May (together with her boyfriend Steve Law); Jayson; Paul; and of course my wife Delia. My eldest Gigi and her husband Eric Malapitan from Sydney, Australia were not able to join us.

The 11-man family caravan of two rented vehicles (an 8-seater Black Suburban Chevy and a red Nissan car) left our Milpitas home focusing on the trail, the road, tourist spots, the mountains, the beautiful sceneries, the horizon, and beyond!

The spots we watch on television, places we read in books/travel magazines, and tourist attractions we hear from people... we're able to



Grand Canyon, North Rim, Arizona

reach them, visit them, follow the trails, take pictures, experience the earthshaking rock formations; and appreciate the exhilarating grand canyons.

There were a lot of beautiful spots and places but due to lack of material space, I will only venture on earthshaking and challenging adventures.

At the border of Arizona and Nevada, we scaled the Mike O'Gallagher - Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge Plaza connecting the mountain ranges of Arizona and Nevada. We took the 80-steps stairs (8 sets of 10) to reach the 290 feet high and 1,965 feet long bridge spanning the two states.

The Horseshoe Bend located in Page, Arizona was amazing! It is a horseshoe-shaped incised meander of the Colorado River located five miles downstream from the Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell within Glen Canyon National Park. The hike to Horseshoe Bend is about 3/4 mile from the parking lot, so it's about 1.5-mile hike.

Horseshoe Bend is a geologic masterpiece sculpted by the Colorado River, an example of what happens when wa-

ter takes the path of least resistance. At Horseshoe Bend, an unstoppable river force met an immovable object, namely, a sandstone escarpment. Since this rock formation wasn't going to yield anytime, the river went around it. The result: the 270° horseshoe-shaped bend in the river!

We went to the Lower Antelope Canyon, about 1,335 feet in length which is a Slot Canyon in the American Southwest. It is a Navajo land east of Page, Arizona. We discovered the colors, natural atmosphere, and rock formations and explored its depths with a Navajo guide capturing the unique part of the American landscape with our cell phones.

The red canyons at Dixie National Forest, Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah was likewise exciting. Entering the park, a private vehicle is charged \$35.00 while those in the military and veterans are free. We were free because my son was a veteran and my son-in-law is in the active duty.

The following day, we went to Red Hills Desert Gardens at Red Hills Parkway, St.

George, Utah then to the border cities of Cedar and Fredonia from Arizona and Kanab, Utah.

We passed through the colored mountains of Pariah in Utah along Highway 89. The colors were due to their encrusted minerals like iron oxides, manganese, cobalt and others that geologists describe.

Passing through long stretches of mountain ranges along Highway 15 for almost four hours with intermittent showers along the way, we reached Kaibab Lodge along Highway 389 at North Rim Country Store, 10 miles away from the Grand Canyons.

We finally reached the Grand Canyons at Elevation 8,827 feet. At the entrance gate, we drove another 13 minutes to reach our destination. We parked adjacent to the North Rim Visitor Center, but we have to wait for about seven minutes for the rain to stop.

From the main parking area, we walked through a relatively short-easy lane to the Grand Canyon Lodge. We took the round trip trail leading to the spine of the ridge to Bright Angel Point. This trail is steep with drop-offs and stairs but provided dramatic views of the grand canyons.

Nature provided the relief for all the efforts we went through: a communion with nature!

Here in Hawaii, we have a lot of nature-related adventures we can explore. Nature is Hawaii's best attraction! Let's start exploring them!

ELPIDIO R. ESTIOKO was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. For feedbacks, comments... please email the author at estiokoelpidio@gmail.com.

As a former member of the Philippine Nomads, I love communing with nature! My culminating activity with Philippine Nomads that I will never forget was: the 8,000-foot Mt. Mayon climb. It was a 3-day ascent-descent at the most-climbed portion of the almost perfect cone.

The terrain of Mt. Mayon is: At 2,000 feet, the Office of the Commission on Volcanology is located. From 2,000 to 4,000 feet is the forested area. From 4,000 to 6,000 feet is the hard rock/granite hard formation of the mountain; and at 6,000 to 8,000 feet, the soft portion /loose rocks of the mountain.

By the way, at 6,000 feet, there is an ideal campsite for mountaineers to stay overnight just in time for the morning assault. Wearing a gas mask, we stayed only for five minutes at the mouth of the active crater that spews poisonous fumes.

On my first visit to Hawaii last year, we communed with Oahu's pristine beaches like

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HEALTH & FAMILY

Sleep Deprivation Kills

PURPLE SHADES by Letty Jacinto-Lopez

She's gone. My beloved friend, Evelyne, suddenly died in what should have been a routine confinement for shortness of breath. Just when she was getting better, she caught pneumonia in the hospital.

Her son, Gabby, a doctor himself, prescribed the strongest antibiotic to combat this particular strain of pneumonia. When Gabby studied her medical chart delving deeper into the matter ("I covered all bases; what could I have possibly missed?"), there was nothing he could find to explain why she lost her grip. Everything medically possible was done to save her life.

What did her in?

"Her body was too weak and it simply gave up," cried Gabby.

Why?

Evelyne averaged three hours of sleep a night. She enjoyed staying up late when everyone had gone to bed so that she could clean up, putter around the house, play her music and even watch her favorite movies and drama series, undisturbed. It was not as if she was under any kind of strain or stress, either. She simply enjoyed being a night owl.

I am guilty of this, too, and a dozen more friends who are into some kind of hobby or pastime: painting, scrapbooking, writing, meditating, baking, cooking, composing, even making jewelry or beading. There are also those who stay awake to hear from fam-

ily and friends from different time zones, like me. Deep into the night, I'd exchange private jokes with them, emoticons flying right and left, which made us extremely happy, filling us with wonder and delight. Staying awake never felt so good.

This is wrong. There have been sound medical findings on the benefits of sleeping on time. Our body needs to turn off so that our cells and organs are given time to build and grow new cells, recharge and recover. The best time to do that is at night. (For those on the night shift, close curtains and blinds and get eight hours in bed).

"Sleeping helps wounds to heal faster and it restores sore or damaged muscles," says Gabby. "While asleep the body can produce more white blood cells that can attack viruses and bacteria that



My beloved friend, Evelyne, suddenly died in what should have been a routine confinement for shortness of breath.

When you don't get enough sleep, your immune system is not able to properly protect the body from infection.

can hinder the healing process. When you don't get enough sleep, your immune system is not able to properly protect the body from infection.

"For seniors," he continues, "sleeping may elude them, but if you get five to six hours daily, that would be ac-

ceptable. However, try to aim for eight hours of sleep."

Oh, Evelyne. We loved, we laughed, we feasted, we sang, we cried, we prayed, we shared memories — warm and loving — of precious times spent together.

You've gone to heaven. Too soon. (www.philstar.com)

Q & A: AWARD-WINNING......from page 9)

is another form of storytelling. What I love about illustration is that I can create scenes that would be physically impossible to do in theatre or photography. I've been an avid comic reader since I was a kid. I love reading actual books, but always seem to fall asleep after a few pages. Comic books keep my mind engaged with the story and artwork. I love vintage comics because the artwork is simply dynamic and the look of vintage printing and halftone dots bring me joy.

HFC: Could you walk me through your creative process, say when do you know you have an idea worth putting on paper? And how do you go about it?

GALLARDE: I usually start with an idea I see in my imagination. Sometimes ideas come to me while in the shower or while grocery shopping. I try to think of things I haven't seen before and if I have seen it before, how I can put my own spin on it. I only draw things I am in love with. This even applies to client work. If someone asks me to draw something and I'm just not into it, I pass the work to one of my friends. I think it shows in the

final art if you're truly passionate about something or not. In a traditional comics workflow usually a penciler, an inker and a colorist are three different people—but I do it all myself! I prefer it this way because sometimes I can't properly convey what I see in my mind to someone else, so I just do it myself! I add the textures and fade the colors by hand using special brushes. I add creases where paper would normally be aged. I just try to bring my idea to life. How funny that other artists try to create beautiful polished pieces, but I am deconstructing mine to look old and weathered. Two different types of beauty!

HFC: How does your heritage influence your work or your values as an artist?

GALLARDE: Growing up in the plantation town of Waipahu made me appreciate the beauty of older things. From the charming simplicity of Arakawa's to the 70s muscle cars riding around, growing up in Waipahu made me appreciate all of those and want to include elements of them in my work. I grew up wearing secondhand clothes inherited from uncles and entertained

myself with old toys/books donated by cousins so I love items that feel "lived in." I try to capture that nostalgia in my art. The creased and stained papers I use make the pages feel like someone owned it for years and now they're passing it onto you. It makes the piece feel more unique and special.

HFC: What are the challenges of being an artist in Hawaii? In the US? How do you overcome them?

GALLARDE: Being an artist in Hawaii is challenging because overhead is high while financial support is low. With physical art galleries disappearing and art supplies getting more expensive due to the cost of shipping, Hawaii artists like myself are turning to digital and alternative ways to showcase their art like Instagram, Twitter and DeviantArt. Thankfully I've found success online and have grown my fanbase outside of Hawaii.

HFC: Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In 10 years?

GALLARDE: In five years, I'll still be drawing but maybe my style will have changed by then? I've been illustrating more book covers

recently and some characters I designed for a pilot that were recently picked up by Netflix, so who knows what else I'll create! That's the great thing about art—all art is related, so really the possibilities are endless!

HFC: What is your advice to budding artists, especially Fil-Am artists like yourself?

GALLARDE: My advice would be to diversify every-

thing you do—try different art styles and read books outside of what you're interested in. Speaking from experience, don't be afraid to fail. Failure is inevitable, but it is essential to growth so just be like me and fail fabulously!

To see more of Mr. Gallarde's works, follow him on Instagram (@artbycheyne) or visit his website at cheynerama.com.

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Beloved Bible Stories Take On Hawaii Center Stage

By Mark Sanchez

With *The Phantom of the Opera* approaching its final act at the Honolulu Blaisdell Center, Broadway connoisseurs in Hawaii again scramble on their search for the new theater sensation in the Aloha State. Indeed, the hunt for the next awe-igniting show can be a bit challenging in the islands. But worry no more because the Ron Bright Foundation, aka the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation (IABK), got our back.

Throughout the month of September, IABK Foundation will be showcasing an epic play about family, forgiveness, and second chances that will spearhead its 2019 Fall production. Loosely adapted off the biblical accounts of Genesis, in the Old Testament, "Children of Eden" is a two-act musical about God's Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the Great Flood.

The story follows Father (God) as he breathes life into his children, Adam and Eve, and eventually learns that the most conflicting part of being a loving father is letting go. It explores the "complexities of parent/child relationships, personal freedom vs. authority, forgiveness and second chances," says director Mary Hicks, who has overseen its production since conception. It's a lesson that would translate into the parenting of Cain, Abel,

and Seth—then reiterated once more as Noah parents his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

This jovial and inspiring musical celebrates the difficulty of choice, the importance of passion, the value of questioning, and the pain in allowing those we love to take risks and face consequences. In order to capture the expanse of humanity, this play is traditionally performed with a multi-ethnic cast. It will be accompanied with fantastic scores written by the award-winning Broadway composer and lyricist, Stephen Schwartz. Running on weekends from September 6 through the end of the month, it will be showcased at the Paliku Theater on the campus of Windward Community College, in Kaneohe.

According to Ligaya Stice, IABK's chief executive director, "Children of Eden" is "a show that [Ron] Bright always wanted to direct but for one reason or another, never had the opportunity to do so. So this production is really a tribute to him. The show is so much more than the familiar Bible story about the creation and the flood - it is about the importance of family, relationships, forgiveness and second chances. These are all topics that were important to him, and these were lessons that he passed on to us." The musical is part of the organization's 2019 Season program called "Seuss, Schwartz and Songs."

Adding to our thrill and excitement will be the fact that several of the cast mem-



bers are of our own:

- **Miguel Cadoy III**, playing the murderous Cain, is a music teacher at Farrington High School and the director of Farrington Performing Arts Center. Aside from teaching, he can be seen performing around the island and the world. He is best known for his role as Hula Hoop the Octopus in *Honu By The Sea the Musical*, performing internationally. He was last seen as Frankie Suzuki in the Hawaii premiere of *Allegiance*. Past credits include Tinman in *The Wiz (IABK)*, *Sebastian in The Little Mermaid (DHT)*, *Waiter in First Date (Chaminade)*. He was also in *Hairspray (PTW)*, *Les Misérables (PTW)*, *Godspell (MVT)*, *Titanic (DHT)*, *The Phantom of the Opera (PTW)*, and now in *Children of Eden (ACT)*. He has also music/vocal directed throughout the island, including local productions of *The Last Five Years (StageFish)*, *The King & I (PTW)*, *Hairspray (PTW)*, and *In the Heights (LCC)*.

- Playing Eve is **Jade Stice**, a veteran performer who appeared in *The Wiz* in 1985 with Mr. Bright. She's also performed in the original Broadway production of *Miss Saigon* in 1991 and a proud founding

member of the IABK Foundation. Only the previous summer, Ms. Stice directed IABK's inaugural Summer Musical Theatre Arts Education Program show, *On Dragonfly Wings*. She and her husband has three children—Jet, Georgia and Tiger—a dog, a cat, five chickens, and two miniature horses. She also currently works for Family Hui Hawaii.

- **Michael Cabagbag** is a cast member for The Walt Disney Company and the Musical Theatre Troupe director for Hawaii Education of the Arts. Most recently, he directed *Mary Poppins Jr.* at Palikū Theater and was last seen performing on stage as Earthworm in *James and the Giant Peach*. He plays Abel and Ham in the show.

- **Jade Bright** will be playing Noah's wife, Mama Noah, who was last seen on the Palikū Theater stage in *Les Misérables*. An academic coach at 'Āhuimanu School, Ms. Bright was in the 2nd Na-

tional Touring Company of *Miss Saigon*, along with her husband, Michael Bright. She was also casted in *West Side Story*, *Carousel*, and *Once On This Island (CPAC)*. She was also recognized for choreography in Palikū's production of *Miss Saigon*, garnering a Po'okela award.

Next week also marks the preamble of "-ber" months of the year, an annual rite most anticipated by us Filipinos. This would mean days and weeks of filling up our balik-bayan boxes and crossing off checklists of regalos and aguinaldos for families back home, in the motherland, until the fateful month of December arrives. And what could be more nostalgic and redolent of Christmas season than to witness our favorite Bible characters take center stage in the Paradise State, bringing us warm and joy and hope? With island-renowned ensemble and grand production, it's certainly a show you don't want to miss.

(EDITORIALS: THE SO-CALLED...from page 3)

Structural change

If the U.S. continues down the current trajectory of increasing income-wealth inequality (already consecutive decades) the likelihood is that it will begin to exhibit more characteristics of third world countries, even if GNP and GDP keep rising.

Globally, the countries with the highest income inequality are mostly third world countries.

A big, growing economy is really a false narrative of success absent of a more equal distribution of wealth.

When politicians, many who are running in the 2020 presidential elections, talk about the need for real structural changes, listen to some of their ideas.

Don't be fooled by the corporate media, elitist pundits or politicians who paint these reformers as radical. The corporate media and elitists clearly want the status quo in which their major company stockholders have been reaping the benefits. They are the top 1 percent and will do all the PR spin necessary to

keep average Americans from waking up to the truth.

What truth? That structural reformers are right. In order for the inequality trend to reverse itself - there must be major changes, bold changes to be adopted. Changes in educational opportunities and affordability, changes to the tax code (reversing the corporate tax cuts, among others), changes to the federal minimum wage, changes to the overall budget with priorities focused more on investment in the country's people rather than funding never-ending wars, more nuclear weapons, to name a few. What we need is greater shared prosperity. What is needed is greater opportunities for income-wealth mobility.

The U.S. is still the richest country in the world. But it doesn't feel that way. There is something fundamentally wrong here. And it's time that more Americans are aware of this so they can understand the discrepancies of what they are hearing in the media (that the economy is booming) to what their personal reality is.



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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

New Public Charge Rule Could Limit Immigration

The Department of Homeland Security published on August 14, 2019 a final rule changing the standard to be used in determining whether a person who seeks to be admitted or to adjust status is likely to become a public charge and therefore inadmissible to the US. A public charge is an individual who receives one or more designated public benefits for more than 12 months, in the aggregate, within any 36-month period (such that, for instance, receipt of 2 benefits in 1 month counts as 2 months).

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Ser-

vices (USCIS) will apply the “totality of the circumstances” test which considers all of the factors in totality to determine whether a person will become a public charge. Furthermore, any money or benefit received from programs that are entirely funded by private entities are not considered in its determination.

By law, however, some people are exempt from public charge or may apply for a waiver of the public charge ground of inadmissibility when applying for admission or adjusting status to the United States. These are refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJs), people applying to renew Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), applicants for humanitarian forms of relief such as U visa (Victims of Qualifying

Crimes), T visa (Victims of Human Trafficking), or under Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The programs considered in the public charge determination are: 1. Cash assistance for income maintenance including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (which may have other names in different states), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), State and local cash assistance programs (often called “General Assistance” programs), federal or tribal benefits in cash, and housing programs which are Section 8 Housing Assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Section 8 Project-Based rental Assistance and public housing; and 2. Institutionalization for long-term care at government

expense in a nursing home or mental health institution and covered by Medicaid.

The decision of the USCIS must be based on the evidence in the record of specific circumstances at the time of the person’s application. At a minimum, the USCIS will consider the factors of: applicant’s age, health, family status, assets, resources, financial status, education and skills, any Affidavit of Support (Form I-864) submitted, prospective immigration status and period of admission. The presence or absence of one of these factors should not be the sole criteria for determining whether the applicant will likely become a public charge. The USCIS will look at whether the applicant is incapable of earning a livelihood; does not have sufficient funds in the US for his support; and has no person in the US willing and able to assure that he will not need public support, and therefore is inadmissible as likely to become a public charge.

The USCIS can deny the application on the ground of likelihood of becoming a public charge if it finds some specific circumstance such as mental or physical disability, advanced age, or other fact reasonably tending to show that the burden of supporting the applicant is likely to be cast on the public. The evi-

dence must indicate permanent personal conditions in the applicant’s case that cannot be remedied and cannot be based on circumstances beyond the control of the applicant which temporarily prevent him from joining the workforce such as an injury from an accident which will heal in time.

The USCIS, in its discretion, may permit an adjustment of status applicant who is inadmissible only on the public charge ground to adjust status to that of a legal permanent resident upon posting of a public charge bond. The minimum bond amount is \$8,100. The actual bond amount will be dependent on the applicant’s circumstances and can be higher than \$8,100.

The USCIS will also look at whether the applicant has been able to work in the past or has potential to work in the future. The USCIS should not deny the application if the applicant is of working age and healthy enough to work. The application cannot be denied if the applicant does not have a job but does have sufficient funds or assurances of support by relatives or friends in the US.

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Senator Hirono Criticizes New Trump Policy That Would Permit Indefinite Detention of Migrant Families, Children

The Trump administration has announced it is ending a federal court agreement that limits how long migrant families with children can be detained.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan outlined the new policy, which replaces the Flores settlement agreement. That’s been a longtime target of immigration hard-liners in the Trump administration, who contend the settlement has acted as a lure to families in Central America.

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) released the following statement after the Trump Administration announced a final rule aimed at dismantling protections for migrant children under the Flores Settlement Agreement.

“This is an adminis-

tration that apparently sits around trying to come up with at least one cruel thing they can do to immigrants every single day. Now, the same people behind separating families, holding children in dangerous and unsanitary conditions, and constantly dehumanizing immigrants want a rule to indefinitely detain children and families fleeing terrible violence in Central Ameri-

ca. No amount of cruelty is enough for this administration. We need to fight back.”

The new policy means that migrant families who are detained after crossing the border can be kept indefinitely, until their cases are decided. Today’s policy doesn’t specify a limit but sets an expectation that cases be resolved comparatively quickly — within about two months.

MAINLAND NEWS

Filipina Women’s Network to Honor Outstanding Filipinas

The Filipina Women’s Network will be honoring their 2019 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award recipients at the 16th Filipina Leadership Global Summit to be held October 28-November 2, 2019 in Paris, France.

Filipino women who have made exceptional accomplishments in their communities and have paved the way for the next generation of Filipino women leaders will be recognized. For more information on attending this event, visit www.filipinasummit.org/ nominees or email fwn100@ffwn.org.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

HAPPY LABOR DAY...MOMS!

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

When I gave birth to my second child, I have decided to let go of my profession as a church staff and missionary to focus on raising my two young children, a 4-year old and a 6-month old.

I am now a fulltime housewife and mother. But I wear many hats and I have many roles.

I am a teacher. I am my children's first teacher. Not only do I teach them ABC and 123, and answer all their 'whys' and 'hows', I instill in them important life lessons they can bring with them as they grow old and face the real world.

I am a chef. I prepare my children's food day in and day out, with love as the main ingredient, to nourish their bodies, and eventually their souls.

I am an actress, a comedienne, a total performer. I play the role of anything they want me to be- a princess, a villain or an animal. I make them laugh with my funny face, my silly and corny jokes. I sing and dance to entertain them and make their day.

I am a janitress, a laundrywoman, dishwasher, an all around housekeeper. I clean the house, a very challenging task to do. I wash the pile of dirty laundry and stack of dirty dishes. I pick up their mess, not just in the home but also in real life.

I am a nurse, a health care provider. I am my children's boo-boo fixer, scraping their wounds and bruises, kissing their pain away.

I am an event planner. I remember every meaningful event in their lives and make sure they are celebrated.

I am a finance manager. I make a budget for all the household expenses, and make sure that all bills are paid. I also have the role to teach my children to be good stewards of their resources and the blessings that they receive.

I am a personal stylist. I tie my daughter's hair and choose my children's outfit of the day. I make sure that my children not only look beautiful outside, but most importantly inside.

I am a handywoman. I fix all their things, help them assemble their toys and build their puzzles.

I am a referee. I tame their



tantrums and mediate siblings' petty fights.

I am a personal assistant. We always hear "Get this, get that; do this, do that; fix this, fix that." And we keep reminding them to say the magic word- 'Please...'

I am a psychologist, a counselor. I am their listening ear, I am their shoulder to cry on, I am their confidante, their number one advice-giver.

I am so much more. I juggle all these things. I am a jack-of-all-trades.

And so is every mother around the world.

We face the toughest but definitely the most fun, adorable and energetic clients every single day. We deal with people who have the greatest capacity to break our

hearts and hurt our soul but at the same time can give the greatest joy and deepest love. We experience stress of all kinds- physical, emotional and mental, day in and day out, to the point of driving us into insanity. When we want to give up, we can't just throw in the towel. We just have to persevere, persist and live with it. 'Don't bring your work at home' doesn't apply to us because we work from home, we work at home, home is our job and our house is our workplace.

We labor 24 hours, seven days a week. We have no days off, sick leaves, and we get no pay. For us, sleep is a luxury and rest is a treat. We give our hearts, our all in everything we do. We

sacrifice our selfish ambitions and desires just so our children can have the best in life. We do things in love and out of love. We are the ultimate laborers and we raise the future workforce- engineers, scientists, doctors, teachers, and all laborers. We have most character-building, patience stretching, hardest but definitely the best job in the world!

We may not have monetary compensation, but we get paid with the best things in the world - warm hugs, heart melting kisses, sincere 'thank yous', and 'I love yous'. What more can we ask for?

To all working men and women, and to all parents especially mothers in the world, HAPPY LABOR DAY!

(FEATURE: Atmospera-Walch ...from page 6)

Now, all these can continue with Dr. Nancy at the helm, with her own initiatives, of course. We know that every President is limited to only one term of one year. This is problematic as a whole slew of challenges and issues cannot be dealt with effectively in such a short time. All organizations are usually limited by their respective Constitutions and By-laws in the interest of "good governance," among other goals. This is understandable, but there must be a way of tapping flexibility and newer initiatives within the purview of standard norms and regulations. Otherwise, we are faced with the possibilities of leaving existing programs hanging and starting new ones. The process is discontinuous and fragmentary which is counterproductive in the end.

Fortunately, the new lead-

er in the person of Dr. Nancy is a fearless warrior who has much to recommend in terms of work ethic, discipline, determination, common sense and achievement. She is like a top whirling in many directions doing work that needs to be done, which she does with amazing skill.

She doesn't suffer fools gladly, as the saying goes, and that's always a good starting point for any kind of task to be done institutionally. We wish her good luck and great success.

DR. AQUINO, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she served as Professor of Political Science, and Founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies for several years before retiring. An accomplished journalist, she is Contributing Editor to the Filipino Chronicle and Writer to several publications internationally

(Sagot sa Krosword Blg. 8 | August 17, 2019)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL 2019 | September 14-15, 2019 | Honolulu Museum of Art's Doris Duke Theater | For more information: visit honolulumuseum.org or call for tickets at 532-6097.

TINIKLING ADULT DANCE CREW PROGRAM | October 12, 2019; 11:00 AM - 12:00 NN | Kaimuki Studio, 3030 Waiialae Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816 | The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

TINIKLING TEEN DANCE CREW PROGRAM | October 19, 2019; 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Kaimuki Studio, 3030 Waiialae Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816 | The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

TINIKLING FOR KIDS! A CHILDREN'S FILIPINO FOLK DANCE PROGRAM | October 26, 2019; 10:00 - 11:00 AM | Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 1640 Lanakila Ave. Honolulu, HI 96817 | The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST FUN DANCE | November 16, 2019; 6:00 - 11:00 PM | Pagoda Hotel Ground Floor | Dinner ticket: \$40.00. Contact: Baybee 753-5616; Joe Lim 479-6259; Pris Galanto 295-0774; Carina Ocampo. 382-3374; Pepito "PG" Guevarra 386-6379; Ronnie Agustin 306-9427; Ella Somera Isidro

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipino Film Festival Features Award-winning Filipino Films and Workshops

The first U.S. screening of the award-winning film *Liway* will be a part of the Filipino Film Festival 2019, September 14-15, at the Honolulu Museum of Art's Doris Duke Theater.

Garnering top awards at the 2018 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, *Liway* is an inspirational account of the experiences of a mother and son, imprisoned during the 1980s. The screening will be followed by a discussion with writer/ director Kip Oebanda. Opening-night reception: 6-7:30 pm. Ticket price includes a Filipino dinner by Chef Benjamin Abes with wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. \$35-\$30.

The Filipino Film Festival (FFF) will also have free workshops on how to be a YouTuber and on improv/emoting in front of a camera, September 15, 10:30 am., conducted



by Jeff Orig and Jose Ver.

Some of the other films at FFF include: *Motherland*, *Respeto*, and *The Day After Valentine's*,

Motherland, Directed by Ramona S. Diaz. USA/ Philippines. 2016. 94 min. Filipino with English subtitles. Sep 14, 1 pm *Motherland* takes us into the heart of the world's busiest maternity hospital—located in one of the most populous countries: the Philippines. Winner of the Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award:

Commanding Vision. Screening followed by a panel discussion.

Respeto, Directed by Alberto Monteras II. Philippines. 2017. 96 min. Filipino with English subtitles. Sep 15, 2 pm An aspiring young rapper befriends an elderly poet in this critically-acclaimed film. Filled with poetry and music, *Respeto* is one of the first features to tackle the current era of extrajudicial killings.

The Day After Valentine's, Directed by Jason Paul Laxamana, Philippines. 2018. 107 min. Filipino with English subtitles. Sep 15, 5 pm A romantic drama set in the chic urban neighborhoods of Manila and the lush, rural landscape of Lānaʻi, featuring standout performances by Filipino superstars JC Santos and Bela Padilla.

For more information: visit honolulumuseum.org or call for tickets at 532-6097.

CROSSWORD No. 9 by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

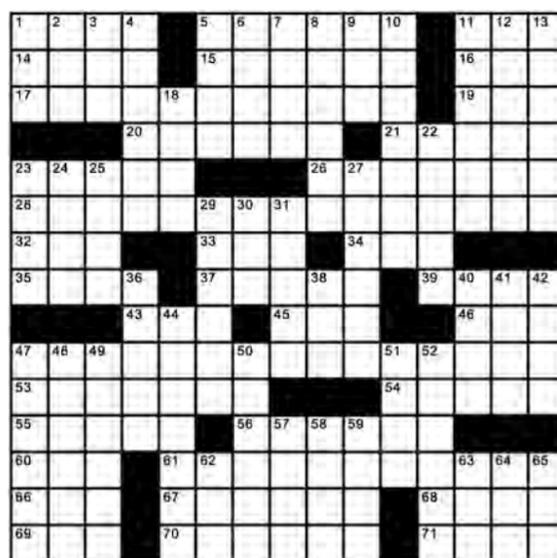
- Black-and-white cookie
- Charge
- Tie the knot
- Direct one's course
- Served with a cheese-flavored sauce
- Chopper
- Former Senator from Camarines Sur
- Big belly
- Senescence
- Groom's partner
- Alone
- Large dark low cloud
- Crusader
- "Rocks"
- Moray, e.g.

- Farm animal
- Carbohydrate
- Unit of length
- Lab burner
- Before now
- Exist
- Afflict
- Term used in chess
- Chanted
- Allowing passage in and out
- Defensive effort
- Chess move
- Ham, to Noah
- Obstinate in your opinions
- And more
- Horizontal beam over

DOWN

- Be in debt
- Stop
- Conclude
- Loathsome
- During
- Pepsi, e.g.
- Mountain goat's perch
- Turmoil
- Blue
- Arch of hair above each eye
- American elk

- Second book of Old Testament
- Hate
- If not
- Hindu queen
- Immaculate
- Killer whale
- Bad look
- Having or arranged in tiers
- Eliminate
- Letter V



- window
- Bit
- Fifth note of any musical scale in solmization
- Heart condition
- Enlarge a hole

(Solution will be on the next issue of the Chronicle)

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