

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ DECEMBER 7, 2019 ◆

CELEBRATING FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE



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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
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EDITORIAL

Have A Merry Christmas!

Ghristmas couldn't come at a better time than December. It's the perfect way to close out the year with goodwill, suspend all negativity, and allow our best selves to take over for the remaining days of the year.

It is a sacred time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and contemplate God's presence in our life. It's also an opportunity to reopen doors of faith and trust in spirit if they have been closed for one reason or another. We can begin with prayers or simply by talking to God.

Christmas is about treasured traditions. For Filipinos, we have many of them from the beautiful devotion of *simbang gabi* (attending Christmas masses) to the festive *Noche Buena* (Christmas Eve Dinner) and joyous *Misa de Gallo* (Christmas Eve mass). We share these traditions with our family, friends and community and add yet another Christmas memory to our lifetime of happy moments.

We hold on to these traditions because they warm our hearts remembering that we once shared them with our deceased loved ones. We honor those traditions because deep down it is like honoring those we love. The next generation, almost instinctively, will do the same for almost the same reason.

In a way, the start of the Christmas season is like the alarm clocking buzzing in the morning, waking us up to the important things in life like family and relationships, and how we can be better at nurturing them.

During the season a childlike innocence is rekindled where we are not only reminded of our youthful Christmas happy moments, but see the world as a child at least temporarily. Why else would we be enjoying and singing along to those silly *Santa* classics on the radio?

The best in human spirit that comes out during Christmas tells us not to forget those in need. There are children without toys or very little clothes or money for school supplies. We can help them. They have toys and clothes drop offs for needy children. There are seniors who are alone and sick. We can make a trip to a nursing home with a group of friends and sing Christmas carols. There are homeless people starving in our communities. We can donate to a shelter or the local food bank. There are people whose hearts are bitter and filled with anger. We can offer goodwill and show compassion and understanding.

There are many ways we can give of ourselves. Donate blood, volunteer time to our favorite charitable organization. Be creative. The season celebrating Christ is a charitable one, that of giving especially to those who are in need.

Christmas is often busy, largely due to the commercialization aspect of it. We can minimize that shopping part that often increases stress and puts us in temporary debt. Instead, we can use our time wisely for positive self-reflection. Or better yet, stay in the present and appreciate all the beauty that Christmas offers. Observe the bright lights and craftsmanship of a *parol* or the *décor* around your neighborhood. Smell the Christmas pine in your living room. Listen intently to the people you are having conversations with during Christmas parties, engage and make it truly meaningful.

Christmas ultimately is love. We can choose to express it in multitudes of ways besides exchanging gifts. If gift-giving is how we choose to show our love, make it a thoughtful one. Call a loved one you hadn't spoken with in a long time. Invite a dear friend to lunch or coffee. Bring over dinner to grandma's and spend time with her. Or bring over dessert to your brother or sister's house and watch a game or movie.

As Christians let us be reminded of the greatest expression of love – that God sent his son into the world knowing that he would be crucified for our redemption.

Merry Christmas to all! May the season be filled with love, peace, and joy for all.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

As the popular Christmas song puts it, "It's the most wonderful time of the year. There'll be much mistletoeing and hearts will be glowing when love ones are near. It's the most wonderful time of the year."

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo gets us all in the Christmas spirit by sharing Christmas stories from members in our community, how they celebrate and what Christmas means to them personally. Rose Cruz Churma shares her distinctly Filipino Christmas growing up in the Philippines, her travel through parts of the country during Christmas time with *parols* alit and her memorable holiday traditions at her lolo and lola's (grandparents) home in Zambales. Her love for Filipino Christmas traditions is one reason she is a part of the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) and the Honolulu Museum of Art (HMOA) annual *Pasko* at HMOA. Kailua residents Bernie and Tess Bernales share their tradition of *Noche Buena* (Christmas Eve dinner) and *Misa de Gallo* (Christmas Eve mass). They are members of the St. John Vianney Parish Church Choir and look forward to Christmas caroling at mass. There are others in the cover story like Eva Domingo who talks about how Christmas brings out the child in all of us; Maria Bustamante's important lesson on Christmas taught to her by her grandfather who worked in the streets of Manila selling candies during Christmas; and Jim Bea's annual return to the Philippines to celebrate with her family in a truly authentic *Pasko* fashion.

In our columns section we have two articles on the media. First HFC columnist Elpidio Estioko gives us a few highlights of the recent Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's 25th Anniversary and Awards Gala, including messages from publishers Dr. Charlie and Chona Sonido, and keynote speaker Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid. Second, HFC columnist Melissa Martin, Ph.D. writes about how we should count our blessings for freedom of the press and have gratitude for journalists and media. She encourages all of us to defend the press in this current time when it is under threat.

HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan writes about yet another attack on immigrants from the Trump administration; this time on a proclamation which blocks immigrants without insurance and those who cannot pay the costs of their health care from entering the United States as of November 3, 2019 and after. Experts believe the new rule will greatly impact family-based immigrant visa applicants, including spouses of US citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR).

In mainland news, read about the Trump administration move to end the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program (FWVP), which was created to reunite Filipino veterans and their families in the United States while awaiting official federal decisions on their visas. Ending this program will mean that many of these veterans now in their 90s will likely die without seeing their families again.

On the lighter side, HFC's Mark Lester Ranchez contributes a movie review on *Mina-Anud*, a film by Kerwin Go which screened at the 39th Hawaii International Film Festival. If you are interested in a dark comedy to watch with family and friends, this might be worth your time. See the review for the plot and interesting cast of characters.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you who supported us by attending our 25th Anniversary celebration. It was a wonderful and successful event we will always remember. Until next issue, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay!*



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The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thehawaii-filipino-chronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

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Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

EDITORIALS

Be Informed, Watch the History-Making Impeachment Hearings

Major history is unfolding before our eyes. Millions of Americans are watching keenly the U.S.

House of Representatives impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. It's an extremely rare event that the U.S. now finds itself in -- a constitutional crisis where the House, a co-equal branch of government to the executive branch, must undergo a process that framers of the Constitution intended when cases of egregious abuse of power occur. And clearly, evidence validates the seriousness at hand.

Robert Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, said "One of the biggest fears of the founding fathers was that the new nation might fall under the sway of foreign powers. You don't have to be a so-called "originalist" in order to see how dangerous it is to allow a president to seek help in an election from a foreign power — and Trump has done just that. This is an impeachable offense, according to the framers of the Constitution. Case closed."

Three weeks into the testimonies in the House inquiry, Americans are reacting with mixed emotions: sadness that an impeachment inquiry is legitimately warranted; at the same time, hopeful to see that our democracy is robust enough to let this rare process play out.

It has been encouraging to see key witnesses testify with

courage and honesty to guard democracy and the country's national interests. It's a reminder how special Americans and this country can be, to rise to greatness in the face of blatant abuse of power.

Whether this abuse of power — soliciting help from a foreign government to get dirt on a political opponent — is impeachable could be debated. This part is already a violation against election laws and such interference would mean voters wouldn't be able to make a free choice in the 2020 elections.

But what makes this abuse far worse is the quid pro quo aspect, that Trump specifically withheld foreign aid to Ukraine (that was approved by Congress) that undermined national policy. This second part of the offense shows that the president put his personal agenda over national security. This second part is arguably extortion and bribery (impeachable offenses). And that is what makes this violation dangerous.

Damaging Testimonies

The most devastating testimony to date came from U.S. Ambassador to the EU Gordon Sondland, a Trump appointee and donor, who said that Trump gave him "express direction" to work with Rudy Giuliani, who was pressuring Ukraine to announce an investigation of former vice president Joe Biden's son. Sondland said "It was no secret...the suggestion that we were engaged in some irregular or rogue diplomacy is absolutely false." He went as far to say that there was "a clear quid pro

quo" scheme to exchange official acts for millions of dollars in U.S. government funds to Ukraine.

"Mr. Giuliani's requests were a quid pro quo for arranging a White House visit for President Zelensky. Mr. Giuliani demanded that Ukraine make a public statement announcing investigations of the 2016 election/DNC server and Burisma. Mr. Giuliani was expressing the desires of the President of the United States, and we knew that these investigations were important to the President," Sondland said.

Another witness, Dr. Fiona Hill, called Mr. Trump's demands for Ukraine to announce investigations into Joe Biden and the 2016 elections a "domestic political errand" that diverged from American foreign policy goals. In plain language, Trump's personal agenda went against national foreign policy to support Ukraine that is fighting an ongoing war with Russia.

Dr. Hill was asked about a now-famous line from her deposition, in which she quoted John Bolton, the national security adviser at the time, as saying, "I am not part of whatever drug deal Sondland and Mulvaney are cooking up." She said she took "drug deal" to mean the scheme of exchanging a White House

meeting for the investigations Mr. Trump sought.

Over the numerous scandals swirling around the president (too many to list), Trump has already shown himself to be a president bereft of morality and unfit to be the country's leader.

The Watergate scandal was the last constitutional crisis; but many political analysts and historians say Trump's violations are far worse than Nixon's. It involves a foreign power, national defense and security, in addition to election violations.

Sadly, due to today's hyper-partisan politics compared to the 1970s, it's looking like Republicans this time (unlike in Watergate) will not break from protecting the president. The GOP has been shameful in defending the indefensible; and haven't even come out to condemn obvious wrongdoing at minimum.

What the impeachment inquiry will mean in the future

No one knows exactly at

the moment how the impeachment inquiry will play out in the next election. Public opinion appears to be split. But in the long run, history will vindicate Democrats because they've put temporal politics aside for the greater good of executing their Constitutional duties. In other words, our government, our Constitution, our standards of governance, have at least been preserved to the extent that a future president will not be as emboldened as Trump has been in his disregard for the law. The deterrence is that impeachment looms, as framers of the Constitution intended.

So regardless of any possible political fallout in the short term, Democrat lawmakers were right to pursue impeachment.

The impeachment inquiry shows to the world that the United States still stands for something, that the rule of law is still important to Americans; and that we expect even our president to abide by them.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Community Celebrates A Filipino Christmas at the 13th Annual Pasko sa FilCom

It was a day filled with Christmas joy and camaraderie at the FilCom Center's 13th Annual Pasko sa FilCom (Christmas at FilCom) on Sunday, December 1. In the spirit of a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas Time, the event's theme, Filipino and non-Filipino community groups, organizations and individuals came together to share their knowledge and talents with singing, dancing, crafts and cultural and

public services exhibits.

Pasko sa FilCom is a family-oriented event with several Philippine-inspired activities for both adults and children. There were contests for creating parols (Filipino Christmas lanterns), choral performances, tabletop Christmas tree decorations, Christmas karaoke singing, and lots of food samplings. The University of Hawaii also featured once again a college fair to help families plan and inquire about college.

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COVER STORY

Celebrating Pasko in Hawaii and the Philippines

By Edwin Quinabo

For millions around the world Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Christ. It's also about having special times with family. The Christmas season brims with joy that many can't help but to feel nostalgic of past Christmases. So families do it again, the same things, then suddenly they find themselves with a Christmas tradition. This is how Pasko (Filipino Christmas) carried over to the Aloha state or any place worldwide where there are Filipino communities.

There are plenty of Pasko traditions -- of beautiful parols (Filipino Christmas lanterns), *simbang gabi* (Christmas masses that run from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24), *Noche Buena* (Christmas Eve dinner), *Misa de Gallo* (Christmas Eve mass), festive desserts like *ube halaya* (sweet purple yams), the celebrated *lechon* (roasted pig, prepared for the holidays in the Philippines instead of turkey), Christmas caroling, asking for and giving *aguinaldo* (gifts) around the neighborhood, and the *mano po* (greeting bows toward the hand of an elder), to name a few.



Remembering Christmas in the Philippines

Oahu resident Rose Cruz Churma is from Baguio, Philippines but would spend Christmases growing up in San Marcelino, Zambales with her Lola Sitgang and Lolo David (grandparents).

"Our Christmas holiday started when we board the bus in Baguio. As the bus navigates down Kennon Road, we held on to our seats and anticipated the first province that awaited us down the zig-zag road—Pangasinan. In the 1960s and 70s, the major road linking Baguio to the

rest of Luzon was MacArthur Highway. On either side of the highway, modest houses of different shapes and colors flanked the road — but each one had a parol hanging from their main front window.

"During those days, before the countryside was 'electrified,' the light from these parols would guide the town folks to the church for 'simbang gabi.' This scene of beautifully decorated parols at each main window of each house is replicated as we travel down the highway to Tarlac and then to Panganga. From there, the route

turns West to Bataan and then to Zambales. When we get to my grandparents' house, another big parol greeted us—prominently displayed on the second floor window—usually red with white tails and lighted at night."

Churma said during the days leading to Christmas, the girls and women gathered in the kitchen and dining room preparing holiday meals. By the time *simbang gabi* started, at around December 16, she said they would have completed basketful of rice cakes wrapped in banana leaves.

She said they were given out to carolers who came by door-to-door in the evening. Another Filipino holiday dessert she remembers fondly preparing with her lola Sitgang was *ube halaya*. "My special chore was to help stir the purple concoction.

"The ube is a root crop—the ugliest thing before it is cooked. Once cooked, we peel off the rough, gnarled skin and mash the starchy core through a sieve and convert it into a thick purple liquid. After adding condensed milk and sugar, my task was to stir the mixture endlessly in a clockwise motion until the liquid reaches a certain consistency. Lola Sitgang uses a special pan for this—she sets

it on a clay stand heated by smoldering coals. It takes forever to cook this, but the final product was always worth the effort."

Churma recalls the preparation of the *lechon* and *lechon salsa*, a tradition many Filipinos practice as Americans do with turkey on Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Instead of ordering *lechon* as most Filipino families do today, decades ago it was commonly prepared at home in backyards. Cooking the *lechon* over an open fire normally starts before the first light of dawn on Christmas. It takes hours to prepare to get that perfect crispy golden-brown skin. The *lechon salsa* is prepared with minced garlic, chopped onions, grilled pig's liver, salt and vinegar.

She said for her family growing up lunch was the main meal on Christmas day as soon as the *lechon* was finished. "The dining table was usually covered with banana leaves and the roasted pig is set on the table as a centerpiece."

Another tradition Churma mentions is the "mano po." Before the practice of exchanging gifts for Christmas, children would perform the *mano po* (children would place the hand of elders onto

their forehead). It's similar in significance to other Asian practices of bowing in respect and asking for the elders' blessings. Grandparents or any elder receiving the *mano po* would give in return to their younger family member peso bills wrapped in a cloth or in an envelope. The *mano po* is still practiced today on Christmas along with the exchanging of gifts.

In her way of carrying on Filipino Christmas traditions locally, Churma teams up with the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) and the Honolulu Museum of Art (HMoA) in presenting the annual Pasko and parol-making at HMoA.

How she got involved with the event is another one of her Christmas memories. "One Sunday on my way to town, the bus passed by this large building with a parol prominently displayed by its lobby. There were a stream of folks going into the building. I got out the next stop and followed the crowd—and sure enough it was a Filipino Christmas celebration at what used to be the Honolulu Academy of Arts. The sight of those parols decorating the various courtyards made that first Christmas away from

(continue on page 4)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4)

home bearable. I sat in one of the courtyards and absorbed the sights, sounds and scents that reminded me of home and made a promise that someday I'll keep the Filipino essence of Christmas alive and well in Hawaii—the importance of family, of perpetuating tradition in this borrowed land, of sharing and reaching out to those who may need some kindness, and in the process creating one's own family," said Churma.

Midnight Mass and Noche Buena

Kailua residents Bernie and Tess Bernales are excited about this year's Christmas because their children will be coming home for the festivities. Like many Filipino families, a tradition they keep each year is attending Midnight Mass followed by the Noche Buena dinner.

Bernie and Tess are members of the St. John Vianney Parish Church Choir. "We will all be in attendance for Christmas Carol singing and mass where we will all greet the birth of Jesus Christ as a whole family with much joy. We will then go home and have our Noche Buena. Each family will prepare their favorite dish to be enjoyed by all. The fare will be a surprise since the dishes will be what they plan and share with all of us. The three grandchildren will have something to prepare too. Christmas Carols will be sung and then back to sleep. Opening of gifts will be in the morning after a simple breakfast," said Tess.

For the Noche Buena, Tess plans to make Paella, a Spanish rice dish cooked with meats, sausages, seafood and vegetables. On Christmas Day, she will order a Cebu-chon (small or partial lechon prepared in the style of Cebu).

Bernie and Tess will then go back to church for choir participation at the 9:00 mass. Family activities for the kids, adults gathering around the kitchen preparing for Christmas day dinner will take up the whole day. "We are

very fortunate that this year's Xmas gathering will also be shared with visiting friends from the Philippines. Much stories from home will be shared along with all the merriment just like home."

What Christmas means to Tess? She said, "the signs of Christmas are hard to miss: Christmas trees, decorations, lights on the windows, shopping for gifts, Xmas dinners and lunches with friends and greetings of merry Christmas. The meaning of Christmas for me goes deeper than these outward signs. For me it is a season of joy. Joy is an inner feeling of happiness that is not easily described by earthly words. Christmas is God's time showing us through the birth of Jesus, His great love for us. Jesus' life among us is one of truth, love and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. In this year's season, invite Jesus into your heart. When you open your heart for His unconditional love, you will receive enduring peace and joy."

See the world as a child does

Eva Domingo who lives in California but grew up in Moanalua says Christmas brings out the child in all of us. "I can't have my childhood back, but I have Christmas to relive those memories," she said.

That annual excursion to a season that brings out the inner child in us is just weeks away. "Christmas is for children, even when we are adults."

Domingo explains, "We think about our youth during Christmas because in many ways they were the happiest times in our lives. We were innocent, joyful, and knew how to love unconditionally. During Christmas, no matter how much we had or didn't have, it was always happy times. This is how Christmas was for me as a child, and how my children were raised to appreciate Christmas – being joyful, happy no matter what life's imperfections presented at the time."

Grandpa's memorable lesson on Christmas

Marie Bustamante of Waipahu fondly retells a story that she believes is at the heart of what Christmas is. She recalls when she was younger opening tons of presents. "We were spoiled kids. But my grandpa wasn't so lucky. He talked about what he had to do as a child in the streets of Manila growing up.

"During Christmas he and his brothers would sell candies. They had a wooden cart they'd push and walk blocks and blocks for hours to sell as much candies they could to earn money for the rest of the family. They were only children but had to work even during Christmas week. But grandpa said it was still fun because it was Christmas. They'd decorate the cart with cheap silver ribbons and sang Christmas songs as they worked.

"It's a moving story because to me it says we can be happy during Christmas in almost any situation. My grandpa had his brothers and his family. That's what made the hard times bearable."

Bustamante said she loved hearing stories her grandpa would tell on Christmas. "It is the perfect time to hear family stories if only we'd listen. Grandpa passed away years ago, but I will always remember him especially during Christmas because of his stories."

Spending Christmas in the Philippines

Jim Bea moved to Hawaii in 2015 but always goes back home to Manila during the holidays to spend time with her family.

She said in the Philippines her family goes all out for Noche Buena. Her family and immediate relatives would sleepover her house so that on Christmas Eve, they could get an early start preparing the food for the evening.

"On Christmas Eve, everyone has their own assigned roles. My Dad and the uncles will barbecue outside while they sing karaoke and drink

"The signs of Christmas are hard to miss: Christmas trees, decorations, lights on the windows, shopping for gifts, Xmas dinners and lunches with friends and greetings of merry Christmas. The meaning of Christmas for me goes deeper than these outward signs. For me it is a season of joy. Joy is an inner feeling of happiness that is not easily described by earthly words. Christmas is God's time showing us through the birth of Jesus, His great love for us."

— TESS BERNALES, *Kailua*

beer. My mom and the aunties would cook their specialties such as spaghetti, carbonara and such. My mom is also assigned to order lechon all the way from Cebu My dad has to pick it up from the airport. Now that my cousins and I are all grown-ups, we also contribute by cooking our own specialties such as garlic bread, mango graham cake, garlic shrimp and such."

For many Hawaii Filipinos, calling long-distance to talk to relatives in the Philippines on Christmas Eve or day is common. Or family from the Philippines would call Hawaii.

Bea says when she goes back home to the Philippines, they make sure to call their grandma and auntie in Hawaii to share Christmas Eve with them.

On Christmas day, Bea's

little sister and cousin would go around the neighborhood asking for aguinaldo (money or gifts) from neighbors. Neighborhood kids would also drop by Bea's house asking for aguinaldo.

"My parents' godchildren would usually receive money while the other kids would receive packed candy variety that we packed the night before. After all the aguinaldo shenanigans in the morning, my cousins and I would go to the mall and spend our aguinaldos," Bea said.

She believes the meaning of Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with the people she loves. "In a way, Christmas is the Filipino version of Thanksgiving. It's the day that we all have fun and come together to just eat, drink, gossip and sing karaoke."




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OPINION



By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

'Tis the Season to Count Our Blessings for Freedom of the Press

We go about our daily lives in the United States of America. We read newspapers in the US and via internet we have access to myriad newspapers around the world. But how often do we stop and consider press freedom? How often do we count our blessings when we peruse social media news outlets? How often do we show gratitude to journalists and people that bring us the news?

USA. The First Amendment, which protects freedom of the press, was adopted on December 15, 1791, as part of the Bill of Rights.

UN. May 3 was pro-

claimed World Press Freedom Day the UN General Assembly in 1993.

According to 2017 report from Freedom House, a U.S. based nonprofit, only 13 percent of the world's population experiences a free press.

North Korea is identified as one of the most oppressive countries for silencing journalists and information via "harassment, arrest, torture or killing" according to a 2019 NPR article and Reporters Without Borders.

Read the following excerpt from Lee Kwang Baek, president of a press freedom newspaper in North Korea.

"Daily NK's mission is to remain your trusted source of news generated from within North Korea, providing timely and accurate information about one of the most repressive regimes in human histo-

ry. The North Korean regime continues to violate the rights of the North Korean people, while threatening the international community with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles...Daily NK directly supports a robust network of dedicated citizen journalists inside the country, who risk their lives on a daily basis to share news from the ground. In turn, we broadcast these reports back to the people of North Korea and the entire world. In doing so, we hope to advance the cause of freedom and give the oppressed people of North Korea the voice they deserve..." www.dailynk.com.

Press Freedom in the US

"When journalists are obstructed, so is the public's right to be informed and hold power to account. The United States has some of the strongest le-

gal free speech protections in the world, and serves as a beacon for press freedom in a world where journalists are routinely censored, attacked, or imprisoned for their work. But the U.S. record is imperfect, and journalists and advocates must tirelessly defend the First Amendment in courts, in legislatures, and in the media. Constant vigilance and an honest accounting of the country's track record on press freedom are essential." www.freedom.press.

Threats to Press Freedom in US

What is the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker? *"The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker aims to comprehensively document press freedom violations in the United States committed by national, state, and local authorities, as well as by private*

individuals. These include: journalist arrests, assaults, border stops, camera and equipment seizures, surveillance orders, subpoenas, and more." www.pressfreedom-tracker.us.

Will you stand up and defend press freedom in your hometown, state, and country? Will you stand up and defend press freedom for all countries on our planet?

This holiday season let us remember the journalists killed in the line of duty, both home and abroad and those falsely imprisoned.

Let us stop and count our blessings for press freedom in the United States of America.

"Oil may run out, liquidity may dry up, but as long as ink flows freely, the next chapter of Life will continue to be written."—Alex Morritt

MELISSA MARTIN, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. www.melissamartinchildreauthor.com.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

UH Asks State Legislature to Fund JABSOM Training on Maui

Included in the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents 2020 budget is a request for \$1.4 million to create a medical doctor cohort on Maui. The funds would allow UH John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to hire eight full time faculty and

staff to create a fully developed program to train a cohort of approximately five to six students each, through all four years of medical school training.

The proposal awaits passage by the State Legislature.

Dr. Vassilis Syrmos, UH

Vice President for Research and Innovation, told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser this weekend that the proposed Maui program "would go from the beginning of medical school all the way through the residency program," adding that, "if this is successful, then we can replicate it at Hilo and also use some of the pharmacy facilities there." He continued, telling the newspaper, "The shortage of physicians on Maui and the Big Island is extremely severe. Not only the primary care doctors but also specialty positions are pretty much nonexistent on the outer islands."

The medical school believes that given a full complement of neighbor island faculty members, the extension of Oahu-based residency programs to the neighbor islands can be initiated within three years if necessary support is provided through fiscal collaborations with its Hawaii health system partners, health insurance providers, federal and state agencies, local practitioners and private donors.

Shortage of physicians in Hawaii

The latest preliminary data presented in September 2019 was startling, especially when analyzing gaps in specialty care on our neighbor islands, which mean that in emergencies patients must travel to another island, usually Oahu, for care. On Kauai, the data showed no island-based specialists in infectious disease, critical care, neonatal-perinatal care, neurological surgery, geriatrics, allergy/immunology, rheumatology, endocrinolo-

gy, or physical medicine and rehabilitation. Maui lacked colorectal surgeons; Hawaii Island had no island-based neonatal-perinatal care doctors, nor any in infectious disease or colorectal surgery. On Oahu, it is getting more difficult than ever to find a general and family practice doctor — with a 46% shortage of those physicians based on need according to the population of the City and County of Honolulu. Other high shortage specialties in Honolulu are infectious disease, pulmonology and pathology.

FAUW Presents Pasko at HMoA

The Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) and the Honolulu Museum of Art (HMoA) invite the public to the annual Pasko at HMoA Palm Courtyard as part of the Bank of Hawaii's Family Sunday on December 8, 2019.

Learn how to create your own parol (Filipino star lantern) and enjoy other Christmas-themed activities. Admission is free. On-street parking is free on Sunday. HMoA is located on 900 S. Beretania. For more information, call (808) 532-8700.



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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

Defending "Fake Marriage" Charges by Really Trying

not fake, the immigration officer will likely deny your petition for alien relative. If the alien relative has obtained a conditional residence status and is seeking to remove the condition and fails to establish that the marriage is bona fide the immigration officer will deny the petition to remove conditions and place the alien in removal proceedings.

must be properly categorized as follows:

1. "Our love story" written by the couple, describing how they met, dating, and courtship, what they love about each other, marriage proposal, wedding, honeymoon, sexual relations, and what they do together. If there are circumstances that are not "typical", such as that the woman is twice the age of the man, explain that this was considered and that it is not a problem.

2. Documents showing that the wife (if she is the alien) has used her husband's surname, such as driver's license, identification cards, bank documents, employment documents, health insurance records, etc.

3. Affidavits of relatives and third person attesting to the fact that the marriage of the couple is bona fide, how they know that it is bona fide, how long they have known the couple, how frequent is their contact with the couple, and willingness to testify in any proceeding.

4. Documents to establish that the couple shares a common residence, such as letters, bills, notices, and other documents mailed to their common residence.

5. Documents to establish commingling of assets and joint financial resources, such as joint bank accounts, joint tax returns, insurance policies with the other spouse as beneficiary, joint medical insurance, joint title to home or car, joint rental agreement and joint receipts (if applicable).

6. Pictures from the earliest period of the couple's relationship to the most recent. In a case we won last month where an Asian (not Philippine) couple was charged with marriage fraud, we submitted the picture of the couple's first date and asked: "How many married couples have pictures of their first date. We also submitted a picture of the U.S. citizen wife visiting her husband's ailing mother in Asia half way around the globe. We asked "How many women care enough about their mother in law?" As Confucius said "A picture is worth a thousand words"

Legal brief to support Bona Fides of Marriage

Submit a Brief in Support of Petitioner's Position that Marriage with U.S. Citizen Spouse is Bona Fide.

Cite the following: The test of the bona fides of a marriage is whether the bride and groom intended to establish a life together at the time of marriage. *Lutwak v. U.S.*, 344 U.S. 604 (1954); *Bark v. INS*, 511 F.2d 1200 (9th Cir. 1975). In other words, it is the intent of the parties at the time of celebration of the marriage that is determinative of the bona fides of a marriage.

Then cite facts establishing the couple's intent to establish a life together at the time of marriage.

If there are no documents to establish commingling of assets, state that the couple was just starting life together and they did not have any assets to speak

of that they could commingle.

In *Bark vs INS*, 511 F.2d 1200 (9th Cir. 1975), the Court of Appeals said: "Petitioner's marriage was a sham if the bride and groom did not intend to establish a life together at the time they were married. The concept of establishing a life as marital partners contains no federal dictate about the kind of life that the partners may choose to lead. Any attempt to regulate their life styles, such as prescribing the amount of time they must spend together, or designating the manner in which either partner elects to spend his or her time, in the guise of specifying the requirements of a bona fide marriage would raise serious constitutional questions... Aliens cannot be required to have more conventional or more successful marriages than citizens. "Conduct of the parties after marriage is relevant only to the extent that it bears upon their subjective state of mind at the time they were married. (*Lutwak v. United States* (1953) 344 U.S. 604, 73 S.Ct. 481, 97 L.Ed. 593.) Evidence that the parties separated after their wedding is relevant in ascertaining whether they intended to establish a life together when they exchanged marriage vows. But evidence of separation, standing alone, cannot support a finding that a marriage was not bona fide when it was entered. The inference that the parties never intended a bona fide marriage from proof of separation is arbitrary unless we are

(continue on page 14)

In case of doubt deny". That is the unwritten credo of most immigration officers.

How do I know? I was once an immigration officer.

So, where an immigration officer is confronted with the issue whether a marriage - which is the basis for seeking lawful permanent residence - is genuine or fake, and there is doubt as to its validity, what do you think he will do? Deny. Let the immigration court sort it out in removal proceedings.

A "fake marriage" (aka "sham marriage" or "fraudulent marriage") in immigration parlance is a marriage that has been entered into "for the purpose of evading the immigration laws". See Section 204(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In other words, the sole purpose of such "fake marriage" is to enable one of the parties to the marriage to obtain lawful permanent residence (green card) via a petition for alien relative by the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident party to the marriage without any intention of establishing a life together as husband and wife.

Immigration officers evaluate a marriage based on what they consider a "normal" or "typical" marriage, namely, common nationality, common language, similar religion, same educational level, the man is older than the woman but not by much, a significant period of courtship, marriage proposal, wedding ceremony attended by relatives and friends, honeymoon, sexual relations, having children, living together as husband and wife for a significant period after the wedding, opening a joint bank account, obtaining insurance policies with the other as beneficiary, buying properties, like a car or house, and registering it in their joint names.

If your marriage does not fit this mold, and you cannot satisfactorily explain why it does not, and if you cannot submit sufficient documents to establish that your marriage is bona fide and

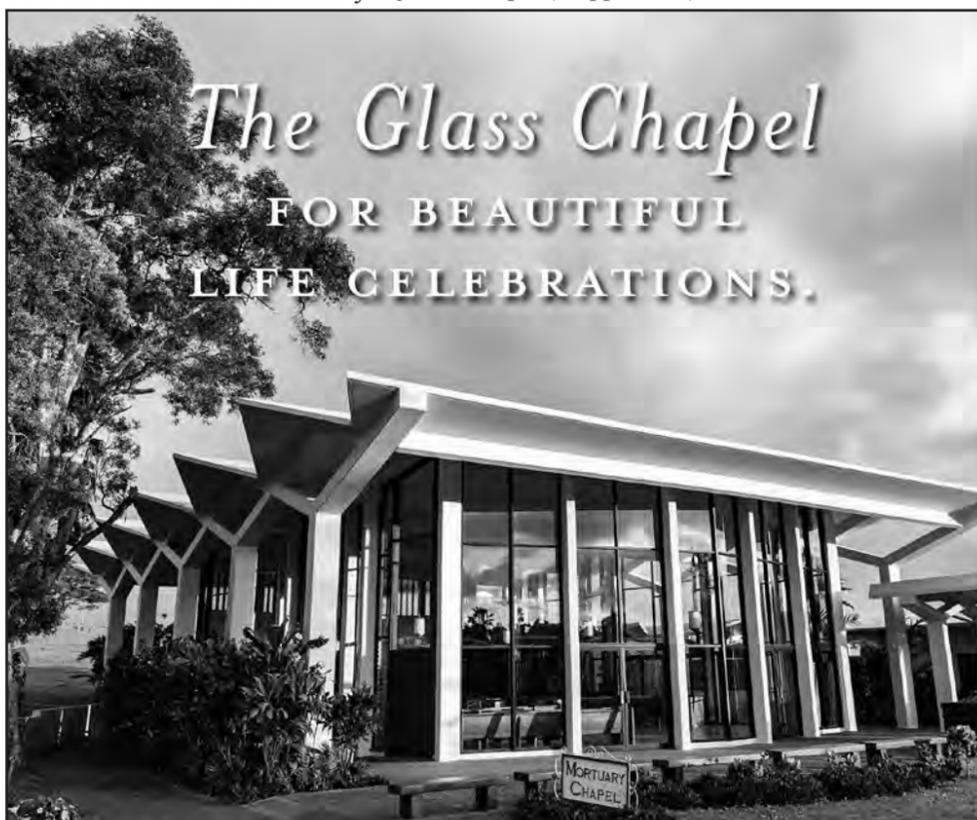
The Best Defense is a Good Offense

"The best defense is a good offense" is an adage that has been applied to many fields of endeavor, including games and military combat. It is also known as the strategic offensive principle of war. Generally, the idea is that proactivity (a strong offensive action) instead of a passive attitude will preoccupy the opposition and ultimately hinder its ability to mount an opposing counterattack, leading to a strategic advantage." Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_best_defense_is_a_good_offense.

We have been applying this strategy with 100 per cent success rate for the bona fide marriage cases we have been handling. We do not handle fake marriage cases.

Documents to establish Bona Fides of Marriage

Submit the following documents to support a Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative or a Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence. They



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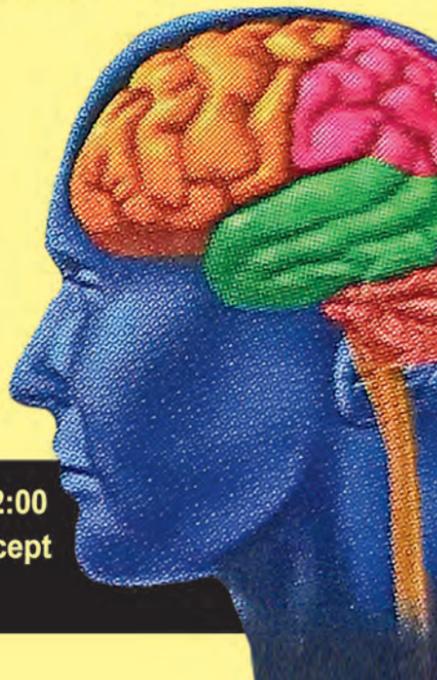
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By Elpidio R. Estioko

Twenty Five Years of Existence is a Fete in Itself - Dr. Braid

“Journalists need to tell their stories,” Dr. Braid emphasized. This exactly was what happened to the staff of HFC, a community newspaper more popularly known as the Chronicle.

Traditional media, in order to become relevant and competitive in the light of modern technology, “media organizations must develop its needs, must take the role of advocacy and must transform itself from being an observer to becoming as an activist,” Dr. Braid said.

I think, what Dr. Braid wants to point out is that publishers need to strive for relevance. Global media needs to translate these challenges and thereby promoting healthy democracy.

Dr. Braid said “this is the future ahead of us! Ethnic and community media have this important role but needs to be relevant with the community and business groups for them to continue this mission.”

For her part, Publisher and Managing Editor of the Chronicle Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido said: “We still exist today because we have the Filipino community behind us. Ethnic media exist because the community it serves needs it. We call ourselves ‘the true

voice of the Filipino community because we cover the good, the bad, and the ugly.’... We are your advocate when we perceive unfairness in our social and governmental systems. We are your ‘eyes and ears’ as we aim to accurately record the Filipino narrative... And so we are especially grateful for those who are here tonight to help us celebrate this milestone event as well as for our advertisers, friends and supporters who could not be here tonight.”

The following government officials sent their congratulatory messages to the Chronicle: United States Senator Brian Schatz, United States Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Congressman Ed Case, Hawaii Governor David Ige, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Consul General Joselito A. Jimeno,

and Lt. Gov. Josh Green.

A certificate of commendation was presented to HFC by US Senator Brian Schatz saying: “Over the past 25 years, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle has covered the latest news on community events, international issues, culture and politics. Your hard work and dedication to journalism have helped keep the Filipino community connected and informed. Congratulations to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle for reaching your 25th anniversary. I join the community and readers in celebrating this significant accomplishment.”

Likewise, US Senator Mazie K. Hirono sent this certificate of special congressional recognition: “In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, best wishes for your future success.”

The Hawaii State Legislature presented this certificate in honor of HFC 25th anniversary:

“A newspaper that made a difference in the community -- a newspaper that is fair and doesn’t fear or favor any group -- the newspaper that is the voice of the Filipino community. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is all of these and more, and the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii is honored to recognize its Hawaii’s only local Filipino weekly newspaper on its twenty-fifth anniversary...”

In closing, Chronicle Publisher and Executive Editor Dr. Charlie Y. Sonido, in his closing remarks said: “Thank you all for coming tonight. The substance of the Chronicle is you, who support us in many ways. Please continue supporting the Chronicle...”

.....
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.

With the advent of social media, modern technology should have eliminated traditional and mainstream media like the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) but the latter stood firm, accepted the challenge, became innovative, stayed creative, and subsequently weathered the stiff competition thereby existing for 25 years to date.

That, in itself, is a fete to reckon with, an achievement in itself! This was the assessment of keynote speaker Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid, during HFC’s 25th anniversary celebration held last Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii.

For 25 years, HFC existed and survived the odds and continued its important role of informing the community of the latest developments happening in the government, the business sector and connecting with various social and economic sectors thus contributing to the life of the people.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filmmakers of “The Hanapepe Massacre Mystery” Film Project Seeks Donations

The filmmakers of “The Hanapepe Massacre Mystery” film project launched a GoFundMe.com online fundraising campaign to begin raising Startup funds.

Donor support using the popular and highly successful GoFundMe online platform can be a lifeline to the project for now, says documentary maker Stephanie Castillo, while the team seeks funding assistance from private foundations, nonprofit grants, and government entities.

“We wanted to launch the GoFundMe campaign this Thanksgiving week, in the Spirit of Giving, and want to ask everyone to consider making a donation to help launch this very important documentary project, the Hanapepe Massacre Mystery,” says the veteran filmmaker, whose Filipino family comes from Kapahi, Kaua’i. When completed, she plans to offer this film to PBS, which has aired several of her other documentaries.

The project team jumped into action on Sept. 21 when the film crew followed community researchers searching for the

unmarked grave of 16 Filipino striking sugar cane workers killed in an ensuing riot in 1924. The film project’s momentum grew on Sept. 28 when the mass grave was identified at the Hanapepe Filipino cemetery by a ground penetrating radar company hired by the researchers.

Castillo and her project team are all from Kaua’i. They will be reaching out to the Filipino community everywhere, here in Hawai’i and on the Mainland, as well as to all those wanting to see this 95-year-old history of a Kaua’i massacre told more completely.

“Questions and mysteries abound, and the film will seek to uncover the answers as to why 16 Filipino sugar cane workers were killed in Hanapepe, Kaua’i during the strike incident and riot and also caused the deaths of four sheriff deputies. The 1924 Hanapepe Massacre is a forgotten story and needs updating. Missing for 95 years in the telling of this horrific tale,” says Castillo, “are the voices of the community on Kaua’i that lived through it, those that remember it and the stories

of its aftermath passed down through the generations.”

“The relevance of this story resonates today for issues involving labor rights, immigration and transnational workers,” she said.

Award-winning documentary maker Castillo, has also begun interviewing descendants with stories and other community storytellers.

“We are confident that this critical move to raise funds online will generate a gigantic wave of support for our efforts,” says Castillo. This is her 11th documentary.

Castillo asks: “Please click this link to support us. And thank you for being an Angel Supporter.” GOFUNDME.COM. Or type: https://www.gofundme.com/f/hanapepe-massacre-story-needs-to-be-told?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

For more information to donate to the project or provide pertinent information on the Hanapepe Massacre, contact Stephanie J. Castillo (castillosj@aol.com).

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

The Impact of Viewing Impeachment Hearings From Hawaii



Ukrainian Ambassador William Taylor (L) and Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent are sworn-in (Reuters)

There's a difference between the mainland and paradise.

It's in the air. But does paradise put a filter on the impeachment inquiry?

If you watch the impeachment hearings from Hawaii like I did recently, you suddenly realize how you're an unabashed, anti-social news nerd and pro-Constitution Filipino.

Guilty, as charged.

It was ideal, really. The early bird impeachment show in paradise started at 5 am. You watch till noon, then run naked on the beach.

What I found is that being in paradise didn't blunt any of the damning testimony given.

If anything, there was a sense that if this is the way the Trump White House works, what else aren't we being told that would be absolutely jaw dropping?

Thank god for the whistleblower. The GOP wants him outed and interrogated. But for what reason? Whoever it is, he/she was just to start the kindling. The big logs are enflamed now.

Still, most people I talked to in paradise just skipped the 5am hearings, slept in, and went to the beach to burn.

Hearings? Impeachment? You want Mai-Tai, brah?

I was a little disappointed. Not one person said to me, "You know that immigrant man in uniform, Lt. Col. Vindman, is a patriotic hunk."

Or: "Boy, that Fiona Hill made it sound like 'Masterpiece Impeachment!' She could read Russian dossiers to me all night!"

And definitely nobody said, "I love that frat-boy potty-mouth, Gordon Sondland. I want him on my team!"

But maybe that's why when you leave paradise for California people sometime mistakenly say, "You going

back to America, brah?"

Don't let the impeachment happen without you.

CARE ABOUT IMPEACHMENT

Hawaii is the most Filipino empowered state in the union. There are Filipinos in every level of government. From the state house to the city halls.

And yet, from what I can tell, Hawaii confirms what most polls show about country's taste for impeachment. At best, they are on the fence: 50 percent Humpty. 50 percent Dumpty.

I'm just waiting for something to fall.

Democrats are far more for impeachment than Republicans, naturally. But everyone's still not quite engaged in the transcripts and hearings. It's like they'll catch whatever's important on the highlights, like watching ESPN politics, just in case some irrefutable thing emerges.

A smoking gun? Or a buried smoking pig?

Don't expect it.

Trump and his loyalists don't concede a point on anything. Not even the truth. They negate and obfuscate at every turn. And then they cap it with, "He's done nothing wrong."

It's the perfect defense when the jury is a jaundiced public.

But then the Democrats haven't been able to either sell the truth or expose the Republican defense, which really amounts to Trump having a third-grader's tantrum, i.e., "Nah-uh!"

That's the best the GOP has done. That, plus debunked

conspiracy theories and remarks like "the money was paid to Ukraine anyway!"

None of it exonerates Trump. It only obscures and confuses the issue.

That issue is this: Did the president withhold money allocated by Congress to Ukraine for military aid in exchange for political dirt on the Bidens. And did he empower his private attorney (Giuliani) to do the public business in Ukraine as if in a secret policy channel while also engaging in his own personal business.

Is making the people's business personal an abuse of power? Breach of national security?

The testimony has been damning.

But Trump and the GOP have seemingly convinced the public that the whole thing is a witch hunt, a hoax, or just not worth paying attention to, just by saying so.

Don't be fooled.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NOW TAKES A SWING

Now it's the Judiciary Committee's turn. They'll review the Intelligence Committee's report and likely file the articles of impeachment.

The Intelligence Committee hearings were overwhelmingly damning. Gordon Sondland was pretty convincing that the orders came from the top and that there was a quid pro quo, though he left a tiny loophole. He said he never heard Trump give him the directive. It was Sondland's assumption that Trump wanted

the aid to Ukraine held up in exchange for dirt on his political opponent.

So Sondland's testimony was less courageous and patriotic, and more of a "c.y.a." move to cover his sycophantic naivete while playing rookie diplomat.

More courageous and patriotic were the testimonies of Lt. Col. Vindman, the immigrant in uniform, who listened in on that infamous Trump-Zelensky phone call on July 25 and knew something was rotten. His best quote was to deny he was a Never Trumper, but more of a "Never Partisan."

It's the answer all Americans should have on the question of impeachment.

Never partisan. Pro-Constitution. Pro-Democracy.

And Fiona Hill's testimony that the serious policy was being pushed aside so that Sondland could conduct his errand for Trump is especially damning.

And all of it is admissible in a court of law, which is strange that Republicans keep saying it's all "hearsay."

I can't see a let-up when the Judiciary Committee hearings start.

Congressman Ted Lieu will get his facetime, and if you follow Lieu on Twitter, you know the former Air Force veteran and Asian American

firebrand will come out swinging.

The Republicans have already come out with their own report saying the president was just doing what was "prudent," reviving an old George Bush line. But bribery? Extortion? No crime say the GOP.

Trump could come in and testify, if he chooses. But now the White House is saying they will not participate, continuing to act like criminal defense lawyers fighting every procedural point without addressing the facts.

Incidentally, Congressional hearings on impeachment are different from criminal court.

A crime against the Constitution is all you need.

But Trump likes to confuse everyone by talking about no due process, no lawyers, no witnesses. Not only has Trump had his chance to participate, he's also essentially obstructed Congress by preventing White House officials from testifying.

What's the president scared of if everything's so perfect?

SOME WALKED OUT OF MY SPEECH

The Intelligence Committee impeachment hearings coincided with my first visit in 12 years to Honolulu, and

(continue on page 12)

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MOVIE REVIEW

“MINA-ANUD” REVIEW: A TRUE TALE OF THE HUMAN TRAGEDY

By Mark Lester Sanchez

Much of Kerwin Go’s debut film, *Mina-Anud*, screened at the 39th Hawaii International Film Festival, presented by Halekulani, is grounded on an urgent if repetitive trope: the human’s innate predilection to exploit power. Based on real events that occurred in the same location, the movie is set on the small fishing village of Mina-Anud, Eastern Samar, where, one fateful morning, a boatload of packing-taped cocaine washes up on its sleepy, unassuming shores. Their eventual discovery will rattle the whole village, insinuate into their dormant ways of life, and will be the catalyst that catapults the plot and its characters into the movie’s farcical, wicked plight.

A stranger-than-fiction flick, the story revolves around disparate personalities of dubious—and often wacky—intent: a gaggle of second-rate surfers; a village of unworldly fishermen; a band of overworked-looking PDEA (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) officers—each in their dark pursuit of outwitting the others, stirring them from discovering their illicit machinations. Ultimately, they find themselves, one uproarious way or another, thrust into a drug-trade scheme none of them have asked for yet never thought they needed: Carlo (Jerald Napoles) and Ding’s (Dennis Trillo)—two inseparable, “loser” friends—pathetic lives completely upturn after discovering huge profit from the “rat poison” the former acquires from a fisherman; and Mang Mario’s (Lou



Veloso)—Mina-anud’s cynic captain—improved lifestyle following his booming drug sales to tourists.

This extraordinary chance seems to prove stronger, and more lucrative, than the moral scales the characters think they uphold: Carlo and Ding’s rigged cocaine trade with Kapitan Mario, who, in turn, conceals barrels of drugs from the Officer Julian (Alvin Anson) of PDEA after initial confiscation, who, in another turn, we find out at the end of film, deceives the media and the wary citizens

from his bigger-and-better, under-the-radar drug trade operation. Here, Go muddles the border of social stratification and moral expectations—from government officials to law-abiding civilians—in the ugly quest for wealth and power, in a deadly chase for a sliver of success from the drug industry that seems to transpire under everyone’s nose despite rigorous laws and regulations. He then showcases, inadvertently, human’s greatest flaw: its tendency to devolve into its own moral parasite, exploiting—and thus spoiling—its own self even in the face of its advocated justice, or mere decency.

The movie seems, with its perfect timing, to pointedly comment at a larger discourse ravaging the country today, but Go discourages this. He says, at its post-screening Q and A at the Regal Dole Cannery IMAX and RPX, on the 14th of November, that the film is universal rather than specific, that tropes of

“corruption” and “power exploitation” are also used in other countries, not just in the Philippines, and thus should not be solely construed with it. Yet this seems to be the film’s own downfall. As the end credit rolls, one strongly feels that the movie’s primary intention is to entertain, not to preach. This is evident in its sometimes mindless absurdities and idyllic scenes, in the way technicalities are given more emphasis than tension, and the way it avoids full confrontation of important questions such as, perhaps, the significance of the drug’s origin or the disease of the drug trade in the country. This hesitation turns out to be alright, but in its insistence to do so, the movie consequently sheds off its potency to openly critique—as effective dark-comedies often do; they are after all cautionary tales—and thus to speak with unbridled tenacity the clamors and fears many Filipinos in the country and abroad feel.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES: THE IMPACT...from page 11)

a speech I gave to some 350 people at the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle’s 25th anniversary gala.

My primary message for people was to be a First Amendment Filipino. The First Amendment gives us our right to free speech, free press, free worship and free assembly. I tested all the subcategories in my speech.

Most importantly, I wanted people to know the First Amendment gives them all license to be journalists and tell

the truth in ethnic media publications like the HFC. It was time we tell our stories. Not just talk story for fun. Talk story for real. About being Filipinos in America. I then told them my stories about my father a Filipino who skipped Hawaii and journeyed direct from Ilocos Norte to California. The racism he suffered still directly affects us all by creating a lost generation of Filipinos that will never be found.

That’s not exactly a holocaust, but think of how an-

ti-Filipino policies in the U.S. were like putting a giant cork on the Filipino population in America from day 1.

That’s our history. But it’s news if you don’t know it. And most of us don’t.

So it’s time to embrace the First Amendment and the Constitution. And while we’re at it, remember that no one man is more powerful than that document. Not even the president.

Be true to the Constitution. Not to a mere venal man who happens to be president.

One woman who was a pro-Trump Filipina wanted a selfie with me despite my politics. Most pro-Trump Filipinos go on one thing. The economy. And if it’s good for them, why change a thing. Or they compare the bribery in the Philippines with what Trump is alleged to have done, and shrug. They’ve seen worse.

Yeah, but this is America. Standards are higher. Supposedly.

During the speech, I also told some jokes from my one-man show, “Amok Monologues,” including a few Trump jokes, which to my surprise made a few people walk out. Like Trump says, I thought the jokes were perfect.

Despite a few who left, I had more people come up to me afterwards, teachers, educators, students, thanking me for setting an example to go amok, speak out and tell our stories.

For that I am truly grateful.

It was also a pleasure to meet face-to-face for the first time with publisher,

Dr. Charlie Sonido, and his wife and the paper’s editor, Chona Sonido.

Charlie had read my first columns in 1991. And when I asked Chona what took them so long to ask me to write, for them, she turned it back at me. “What took you so long?”

For the last 25 years, the paper has become their way to give back to the community. And it’s a publication that people can turn to as an enduring legacy resource to find out what the Filipino community thought and how it reacted to news and events in its time.

Even impeachment.

You won’t find anything quite like it on the islands. At least not with this amok voice.

For sure, readers will know, none of it happened without us. We didn’t say aloha to the Constitution.

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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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

Health Insurance Requirement Temporarily Blocked

preliminary injunction in the case. Judge Simon said in his decision that the proclamation has the potential to cause irreparable harm because immigrants will be separated from their families and there will be a delay in obtaining a visa to applicants who are otherwise entitled to visas.

This rule requiring health insurance would affect family-based immigrant visa applicants, including spouses of US citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR); children of LPRs who are 18-21 years old; children under 18 years old; adult sons and daughters of US citizens and LPRs; people with diversity visas or employment-based immigrant visas; and some religious workers. The rule will also apply to parents of US citizens, unless they can demonstrate that their health care will not impose a substantial burden on the US health care system. They are required to show proof that they will be covered by health insurance products within 30 days after entering the US or have the financial capacity to pay out-of-pocket for “rea-

sonably foreseeable medical expenses”.

Any applicant or intending immigrant who circumvents the proclamation through fraud, willful misrepresentation of a material fact, or illegal entry shall be a priority for removal by the Department of Homeland Security.

The health insurance which will be compliant with the new proclamation must be “approved”. The “approved” health insurance forms under the proclamation are: employer-sponsored health plans, including a retiree plan, association health plan, and coverage provided by the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985; unsubsidized plans purchased on the individual market within a State; non-Affordable Care Act (ACA)-compliant short-term health plans authorized by the US government; catastrophic plans; short-term limited duration health policy effective for a minimum of 364 days - or until the beginning of planned, extended travel outside the US; family member’s plans; TRI-CARE plans or other coverage for military members and

veterans; visitor health insurance plans; medical plan under the Medicare program; other health plans as determined by the US Department of Health and Human Services or his designee. Medicaid is approved for children 18 years old and younger, but subsidized ACA plans are not approved for either adults or children.

The following immigrants are exempt from the health insurance requirement: anyone issued a visa prior to the effective date November 3, 2019; LPRs returning after a long absence; unmarried children and adoptees of US citizens; people seeking Iraq/ Afghani Special Immigrant Visas; children under the age of 18, unless accompanying parents are subject to the health insurance requirement; parents of adult US citizens if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the consular officer that their health care will not impose a substantial burden on the US health care system; and people whose entry would advance law enforcement objectives or would be in the national interest. The proclamation would not apply to asylum and refugee status seekers, those withholding of removal applicants, or applicants seeking protec-

tion under the Convention Against Torture.

President Trump justified his proclamation by citing Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) which authorizes the president to suspend the entry into the US of any class of migrants if the president finds that their entry would be detrimental to the interests of the US. He stated that immigrants and applicants who are uninsured are detrimental to the interests of the US and are a burden to the government, and disrupt the availability of healthcare benefits to US citizens.

Critics of the proclamation point out that the majority of uninsured people in the US are US citizens and penalizing intending immigrants before they even arrive in the US will not solve the problems with the US health care system. The proclamation also runs counter to the Affordable Care Act which aims to provide affordable health care coverage to everyone who is lawfully present 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

U.S. Rep. Case Announced Federal Assistance to Hawaii’s Disabled Homeless

Hawaii’s disabled homeless will get a boost in federal assistance. Congressman Ed Case (HI-01) announced a federal award of \$850,000 to help the state combat homelessness in Hawaii’s disabled community.

“The challenge of homelessness is recognized by all of us on the federal, state, local and community level, and we must continue to work together to help those who need a helping hand – in this case, disabled individuals who are homeless,” said Case.

The housing assistance was provided through the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Section 811 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides funding to housing agencies to assist non-elderly persons with disabilities.

It focuses on individuals who are transitioning out of institutional or other separated settings; at serious risk of institutionalization; homeless; or at risk of becoming homeless. Congress provided these funds through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), which set aside \$505 million for HUD’s Main-

stream Housing Choice Voucher Program to provide sustained community-based integrated housing opportunities to non-elderly persons with disabilities. These federal funds will go to the State

of Hawai’i’s Public Housing Authority. Case said the funds can play a critical role in Hawai’i by providing new vouchers to help disabled individuals seeking to move into safe housing.

In its 2019 Homeless Point-In-Time Count Comprehensive Report last May, the Partners in Care coalition identified 4,453 sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on Oahu.



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Hans Sy, Angel Locsin Cited as Heroes of Philanthropy

By Iris Gonzales
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019

MANILA, Philippines — What do second-generation tycoon Hans Sy and Filipina actor Angel Locsin have in common?

The two have made it to Forbes' 13th annual Heroes of Philanthropy list featuring "30 outstanding altruists" in

Asia-Pacific.

The list – titled "Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy: Catalysts For Change" – includes billionaires, entrepreneurs and celebrities across the region who are committed to solving some of the most pressing issues facing the Asia-Pacific. It was posted on the Forbes website on Monday.

Sy, 64, chairman of the executive committee and director

of SM Prime Philippines, was cited for his support to Child Haus, a cancer center.

"Child Haus opened its newly renovated and expanded center in Quezon City to house 40 cancer-stricken children and their caregivers. Sy, previously CEO of property firm SM Prime, paid \$400,000 in 2010 for the property, which now provides poor provincial families with temporary shelter, as well as programs and activities that

promote healing," Forbes said.

It noted that on his 60th birthday in 2015, Sy bought the land for Child Haus' first location in Manila for \$600,000 and paid \$1.4 million to build it.

Locsin, 34, was also cited for her charity work, including the recent help she provided in Mindanao after earthquakes hit the region in October.

Locsin, best known for playing superhero Darna in a 2005 TV series, once said that "you don't need to wear a costume to be a superhero."

"Over the past decade, Locsin has donated as much as 15 million pesos to causes such as educational scholarships for students, supporting the economic and political rights of indigenous people, and ending violence against women and children," Forbes said.

To select the honorees, Forbes Asia sifted through dozens of candidates, reviewing their monetary contributions, the depth of their involvement and the reach of their philanthropic efforts. (www.philstar.com)

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

reasonably assured that it is more probable than not that couples who separate after marriage never intended to live together. (Cf. *Leary v. United States* (1969) 395 U.S. 6, 36, 89 S.Ct. 1532, 23 L.Ed.2d 57.) Common experience is directly to the contrary. Couples separate, temporarily and permanently, for all kinds of reasons that have nothing to do with any preconceived intent not to share their lives, such as calls to military service, educational needs, employment opportunities, illness, poverty, and domestic difficulties. Of course, the time and extent of separation, combined with other facts and circumstances, can and have adequately supported the conclusion that a marriage was not bona fide.

COMMENT: If you do all of the above, you will be able to establish by the facts and the law that your Petition for Alien Relative or Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence merits approval.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. His current practice focuses on immigration law and appellate criminal defense. He writes law books for the world's largest law book publishing company and writes legal articles for newspapers. Listen to *The Tipon Report* which he co-hosts with son Noel, the senior partner of the Bilecki & Tipon Law Firm. It is the most witty, interesting, and useful radio program in Hawaii. KNDI 1270 AM band every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Atty. Tipon served as a U.S. Immigration Officer. He co-authored the best-seller "Im-

migration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Atty. Tipon has personally experienced the entire immigration process. He first came to the United States on a student/ exchange visitor visa to study at Yale. He returned to the Philippines to resume practicing law. He came again to the United States on a non-immigrant work visa to write law books, adjusted his status to that of a lawful permanent resident, and became a naturalized citizen. Atty. Tipon was born in Laoag City, Philippines. Tel. (808) 800-7856. Cell Phone (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: <https://www.tiponlaw.com>, <https://www.hawaiianimmigrationattorney.com>, <https://www.bileckilawgroup.com>. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon the contents of this article.)

MAINLAND NEWS

Abacan Selected as Juror for International Emmy Awards

GMA First Vice President for Program Management Jose Mari R. Abacan was once again chosen as one of the roster of esteemed jurors in the Final Round of Judging for one of the categories at the 47th International Emmy Awards in New York City.

Abacan, who not only represented GMA Network, but also the Philippines, previously participated as a juror in several categories since 2007.

The International Emmy Awards, which is considered as the Oscars of the TV industry, is an annual event organized by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. It is a membership based organization comprised of leading media and entertainment figures from all sectors of television including Internet, mobile and technology.

Abacan is instrumental for GMA to become the pioneer in



GMA's Jose Mari Abacan

introducing Koreanovelas, Larkorn, Turkish and Indian series in the country. He also leads and oversees all program acquisition initiatives from foreign producers. Undoubtedly, with his vast expertise in TV programming, the GMA executive continues to be chosen by the Academy's Emmy Committee as part of the panel of jurors in determining the most outstanding television programs produced around the globe.

(Solution to Crossword No. 11 | November 16, 2019)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FAUW) AND THE HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART (HMOA) PASKO AT HMOA | December 8, 2019 | HMOA Palm Courtyard, 900 S. Beretania | For more information, call (808) 532-8700. Admission is free. On-street parking is free on Sunday.

5TH ANNUAL SAKADA DAY CELEBRATION | December 21, 2019; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Pahoia Community Center | Email cololan@twc.com for details. The event is open to the public and free

Have your organization's events listed in our community calendar. It's recommended to submit press releases a month in advance of your organization's event. Send information to filipinochronicle@gmail.com.

MAINLAND NEWS

Trump Seeks to End Filipino WWII Veterans Parole Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The Trump administration is moving forward to end the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program (FWVP). The program, begun during the Obama administration attempted to help reunite Filipino veterans and their families in the United States while awaiting official federal decisions on their visas. It was created to allow elderly veterans the chance to have family members help support them in the states. Immigrant advocates called the program humane, and a way to give back to the veterans who sacrificed for the U.S.

Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii said Trump's move to end FWVP is "to serve his pathological need to treat immigrants as cruelly as possible, and to undo any program ever created by Barack Obama, Donald Trump is dishonoring Filipino World War II veterans by ending the program that allows them to reunite their families in the United States. The President's decision means

many of these veterans in their 90s will likely die without seeing their families again.

"The depths of Donald Trump's inhumanity where immigrants are concerned knows no bottom, but not even the most loyal of his supporters can be in favor of disrespecting the brave and distinguished service of veterans who fought alongside Americans and helped us win the war. There is no purpose to keeping the families of the quickly diminishing number of Filipino World War II veterans separated. They have been ignored and disrespected by this country for decades. They deserve our thanks, not spite from their unhinged president.

"For decades, Filipino veterans and their families have tried to get the full recognition they deserve for their service and sacrifice during the World War II. This includes battles to receive the full benefits and pensions afforded to military veterans and their fami-

lies in the states."

More than a quarter million Filipino soldiers enlisted to serve in the U.S. army during World War II and a little less than 30,000 were allowed to move to the United States and become citizens. Many of those soldiers left family behind during that time. Reunions between soldiers in the U.S. and their families back in the Philippines would frequently take many years.

The Philippines was attacked by Japan only 10 hours after the infamous Pearl Harbor bombing, Japan occupying Manila. It became the location of an American and Filipino resistance that lasted for months and the tragic stage for the Bataan Death March of 60,000-100,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war, leading to death of thousands and decried as a war crime. Japan occupied the Philippines for the entirety of the war, and the Philippines suffered almost 60,000 casualties during that time.

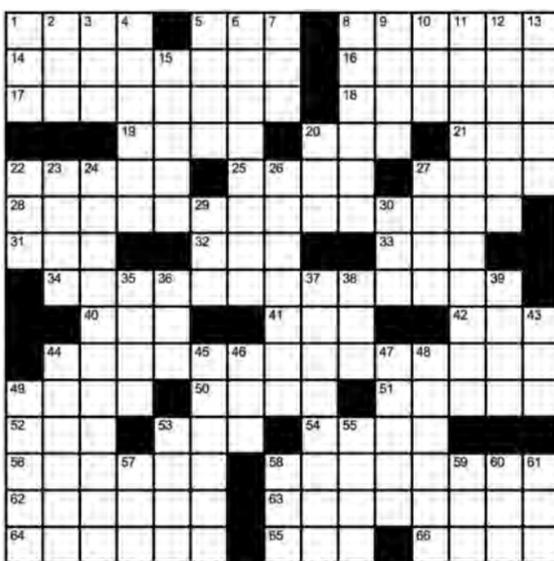
KROSSWORD *Blg. 11*

ni Carlito Lalicon

PAHALANG

1. Tunay
5. Ari
8. Piyer
14. Magsalong
16. Abundante
17. Bisyo
18. Yurakan
19. Pagkuha ng grado sa pamamagitan ng temometro
20. Pagulong
21. Ama
22. Magluwal
25. Lahat
27. Dagandang
28. Pali-paligid
31. Pakyaw

32. Propyedad
33. Kuno
34. Siluin
40. Gayundin
41. Alumana
42. Pinakamahabang pakpak sa buntot ng tandang
44. Abuloy
49. Paggugutay-gutay
50. Tawa
51. Isang uri ng kawayan
52. Alanguang
53. Unlapi para a isa o isang lupon o grupo
54. Isang sakit sa balat
56. Dumagsa
58. Pagtutumbalik



62. Andap
63. Tuyo
64. Tandang
65. Habag
66. Sukat
36. Isa
37. Albino
38. Hepe
39. Bulok
43. Tupada
44. Panahon ng pag-aani
45. Gilid
46. Tukso
47. Tambang
48. Paya
49. Muling pag-ulit ng sakit
53. Natural
55. Pangmaramihan
57. Pagka-maaga
58. Barkilyos
59. Kotse
60. Ineng
61. Ngani

PABABA

1. Koponan
2. Gatgat
3. Puwang
4. Dagdagan ng asin
5. Liyag
6. Tsismis na nakakasirang-puri
7. Kanta ni Freddie Aguilar
8. Asada
9. Bintad
10. Alog
11. Apartado

12. Suwabe
13. Namatay o yumao
15. Bukod-tangi
20. Nimpa
22. Inang
23. Alapaap
24. Kastigado
26. Tanggapan
27. Munting palos
29. Apog
30. Ari
35. Inggit

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