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STATEWIDE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by AMELIA CASAMINA CABATU

Amelia Casamina Cabatu is a community leader and a familiar face, often hosting community events and celebrations. She is a veteran radio announcer and hosts the "FIL-AM COURIER COMMUNITY HOUR" on 1270 KNDI Radio every 1st Sunday of the month. In addition to other affiliations, Amelia is the former Chair of the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii. She owns and operates an adult daycare business and is happily married to Arnold Cabatu. They live in Salt Lake and are blessed with one daughter, Army. Please send your event information to acmina808@gmail.com or call her at (808) 282-2033.

OAHU

JUNE 16, 2017

Picnic on the Pier on the Battleship Missouri Memorial #MOEdition. 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM; Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii BYOFD (Bring your Own Food and Drinks) or purchase from Gordon Biersch's pop-up location. Cost for entrance: Adults \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at the door, Kids: \$5 pre-sale, \$10 at the door, for more information and to purchase pre-sale tickets, visit www.usmissouri.org/picnic.

JUNE 17, 2017

Rizal Youth Leadership Institute 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Education Building, Leeward Community College, An initiative of the Rizalian Youth Council (KAPARIZ) and the Knights of Rizal Hawaii Chapter and Supported by the UH-Leeward Philippine Studies program. FREE and open to all high school and college-age (13-23) youths. To Register online visit <http://rizalianohana.weebly.com/>. For more information, contact persons: Dr. Raymund Liongson (808) 381-4315, Rovy Dipaysa (808) 799-9885

JUNE 17, 2017

Operation Manong/OMSS (Office of Multicultural Student Services) 45th Anniversary. 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM; University

of Hawaii Manoa Campus Center Ballroom. \$10.00 per person, Free for children 12 yrs old and under open to the Public RSVP by May 31, 2017. Contact Information: 808-956-7348 or email opmanong@gmail.com

JUNE 23, 2017

Rotary Club of Kapolei 2017-2018 Installation of Officers and Board of Directors Fil-Com Center 94-428 Mokuola Street Waipahu, HI 6:00 PM Cost: \$50.00 for Dinner, Entertainment, Door Prizes and Rotary Foundation RSVP to Rev. Alex Vergara, RCK President at 808-551-4303 or email: alex@alexvergaraphotography.com

JUNE 24, 2017

Filipino Cultural Night at the 50th State Fair Aloha Stadium 5:00 PM A night of celebrating Filipino culture in Hawaii thru Filipino music, fashion and dance! Brought to you by E.K. Fernandez Shows and 96.7FM KPHI Filipino Radio For more information Contact Person: Allan Alvarez (808) 392-8230

JUNE 25, 2017

Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) Annual Convention Prince Hote. 18:00 am - 3:00 PM. For information and particulars call the Contact Persons: Chair, Zhoydell Magaoyay: (808) 478-9802, Secretariat: Letecia Ancog

(808) 383-3678 Ailyn Parubrub Lum - (808) 226-1228, Susie Berardy - (808) 392-7083, Evelyn Mizukami - (808) 372-6326

JULY 8, 15, & 22, 2017

KAbataAN 12th Annual Filipino for Kids Summer FUN Program 2017. Three (3) Saturdays with 5 sessions in July, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Filipino Community Center in Waipahu. For participants 5-12 years old and limited to only 50 participants. First come, first served. Cost: Free. For more information, email fil4kidshi@gmail.com

JULY 8, 2017

Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) Installation of New Officers and Board of Directors. 6:00 PM; Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts, Tapa Ballroom. Contact Persons: Bernadette Fajardo 342-8090, Brandon Dela Cruz 389-0517

JULY 10-16, 2017

11th Ambassadors' Tour to the Philippines, Manila and Davao City Join the annual tour to the Philippines with the Philippine Diplomats and explore the cultural heritage sites of Manila and Davao City. Experience the Philippine culture, cuisine and entertainment. Starting from \$1813.00 (hotel twin sharing basis) and price is on a first come first served basis. For more information please contact the Philippine Consulate General Honolulu (808) 595-6316 to 19, Aloha Tours & Travel 845-2218, Everlasting Services Inc. 841-2881, Nobel Travel (808) 244-4609, Panda Travel Inc. 732-6691 press 3, or Philippine Airlines Honolulu (808) 840-1109

AUGUST 26, 2017

Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (PCFH) Recognition Night honoring the 2017 Parents/parent of the year, recognizing the 2017 outstanding achievements of graduating high school valedictorians in public and private schools & presentation of the continuing scholar recipients, and announcement of the Trailblazer of the year award to Mr. Roland Casamina. Empress Restaurant 100 North Beretania St. 6:00 PM. We are currently searching for the parents/parent of the year who sacrificed to send their children (3 minimum) to college and/or universities & have attained their professional chosen careers. Contact Persons: Janice Sevilla 595-8000, Lina Longboy 421-7381, Leo Rojas Gozar 630-6268, Maggie Domingo 783-0068

AUGUST 26, 2017

Filipino Nurses Organization of Hawaii (FNOH) Annual Awards and Biennial Installation Banquet Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballrooms IV & V. 6:30 PM – 11:30 PM; Contact Person: Stephanie Chung 221- 6212

SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

Filipiniana Ball and Scholarship Award presented by the Philippine Women's Association in Hawaii (PWAH). 6:00 PM at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom Contact Persons: Letty Saban 255-9429, Jenny Quezon 292-8105, Edna Alikpala 282-3669

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Filipino Women's Civic Club (FWCC) Annual Maria Clara Ball 2017. Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. 6:00 PM; Contact Persons: Rose Galanto 688-4458, Cecilia Villafuerte 780-4985

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) Hawaii Open Golf Tournament Royal Kunia Golf Course 94-1509 Anonui Street, Waipahu, HI. Shot Gun: 12:30 pm; \$10,000.00 Hole-in- One.

For more information call contact persons: Chair, Joe Quibuyen, (808) 256-6399 Facilitators: Hernando Tan- (808) 372-9269

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Filipino American Maharlika Association of Hawaii (FAMAS) Coronation Gala Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. 5:30 PM – 12:00 AM; Contact Persons: Romeo Garcia 368-2312, Raymund Sebastian 799-6080

OCTOBER 12-15, 2017

Santa Lucia Academy Aloha Grand Reunion, Ala Moana Hotel 410 Atkinson Drive Honolulu, Hawaii 10/12 6:00 PM-12:00 AM Hawaiian Night, Opening and Networking Night 10/13 9:00 AM-3:00 PM; General Assembly Meeting 10/13 5:00PM-11:00 PM Luau, 10/14 6:00 PM-12:00 AM Filipiniana Gala Night, Hibiscus Ballroom 10/15 11:00 AM-3:00 PM; Picnic at Magic Island. Contact Person: Tina Salvador 808 426-6183. For more detailed information and to register visit their website: <https://ronnicah.wixsite.com/slaaloha2017>

OCTOBER 20, 2017

Filipino Community Center, Inc. Bayanihan Gala Fundraiser honoring extraordinary Acts of Service for more information and sponsorship opportunities contact Fil-Com Center (808) 680-0451

OCTOBER 29, 2017

Philippine Nurses Association of Hawaii (PNAH) Halloween and Masquerade Ball Fundraising at Ala Moana Hotel, Rumours Nightclub 5:00 PM-10:00 PM. Cost: \$30.00 heavy pupus and one drink included. Contact Persons: Tina Salvador 426-6183, Ramon Sumibcay 489-7148, Tina Fernandez 721-1721

NOVEMBER 4, 2017

Filipino Business Women's Association (FBWA) presents the Annual Kimona Ball and the Business Woman of the Year Awards Ceremony Dole Cannery Pomaikai Ballroom. 735 Iwilei Road, Honolulu, HI. 6:00 PM; Contact Person: Elsa Talavera 358-8964

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Ms. CIAI-SI HAWAII USA Confederation of Ilocano Association Inc. Samahang Ilocano Coronation Night, Dole Cannery Pomaikai Ballroom. 735 Iwilei Road Honolulu, HI. 6:00 PM; Contact Persons: Romeo Garcia 368-2312, Joe Quibuyen 256-6399, Trini Sanga 393-1970

NOVEMBER 18, 2017

Nursing Advocates & Mentors Inc. (NAMI) 16th Anniversary Gala: Appreciation of Volunteer Lecturers, Recognition of new RN's and graduation of Reviewees. Hale Koa Hotel Banyan Tree Showroom. 6:00 PM; Contact Persons: Bea Ramos-Razon (808) 778-6291, Jun Obaldo (808) 277-7495, Bong Curameng (808) 383-0135

NOVEMBER 19, 2017

International Filipino-American Asian Cultural Association of Hawaii's 6th Year Anniversary Ball Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom Makai. 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Cost: \$40.00 donation. Contact Persons: Wilma Ibay 221-2407, Linda Jakosalem 679-9511, Becky Schmidt 291-4579

NOVEMBER 25, 2017

Karat 2: More Bling, Fashion Extravaganza. Featuring the Designing Brothers, Jontie & Nicky Martinez and Recognizing Five Icons of the New Filipino Century. Dole Cannery Pomaikai Ballrooms. 735 Iwilei Road Honolulu, HI. 6:00 pm; For more information call Contact Persons: Pygmalion Arts Fund - (808) 630-6268, Manzano Collection- (808) 312-0778





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M E M B E R

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assistant editor's note



By RADIANT CORDERO

I remember rolling my eyes a lot at my dad.

Then, I got smart, I rolled my eyes after he left the room.

But, the weird thing is, all that stuff my dad taught me when I was a small kid — that stuff I would roll my eyes at — is the same stuff I recite to myself often, if not on a daily basis as an adult. I also am fully aware that it will be even more prevalent as I grow older.

We learn a lot from our dads — even if that wasn't their intention — and there are some lessons that stick with a person for a lifetime.

Dads are full of wisdom that we overlook and take for granted. It's a damn good thing they tell us the same stuff over and over; otherwise, we may never really learn it.

When it comes to pep talks, my dad would nail it every single time. Maybe because he was a coach, maybe it was because we were young and it was easy to say it through stories or mantras. Since I was a kid, he was always trying to teach my brothers, cousins, and me things about life through repeating short, easy-to-remember mantras over and over again.

The eye-rolling would ensue, but, now I find myself passing these

mantras off to others who are in need of encouragement, whether they are friends, coworkers, or even a seatmate on the airplane.

Out of three children, I am the eldest child, but, I am also the only daughter to my parents.

In light of that, I was always the child that was extra loud, extra extravagant, and extra rebellious.

Therefore, I received extra pep talks which required a ton of patience if one was speaking to me.

Luckily, my dad is never one to have a temper or get riled up (although, I would still get riled up because I was receiving yet another talk).

Also, luckily, my dad is one dad who does not shy away from the infamous and inescapable

To all the dads out there, keep telling your kids stuff they don't want to hear. They don't realize it now, but, they'll need it all later.

And when you realize you taught them everything they need to know in life, even if you're no longer around, they'll be grateful.

Thankfully, my dad is still alive... And he's still telling me the same stuff over and over and over....

Today, I am just 27 years old and at this tender age, my dad has taught me a lot of things that I still have a hard time grasping.

My dad has instilled in me to stop being afraid and to step outside of

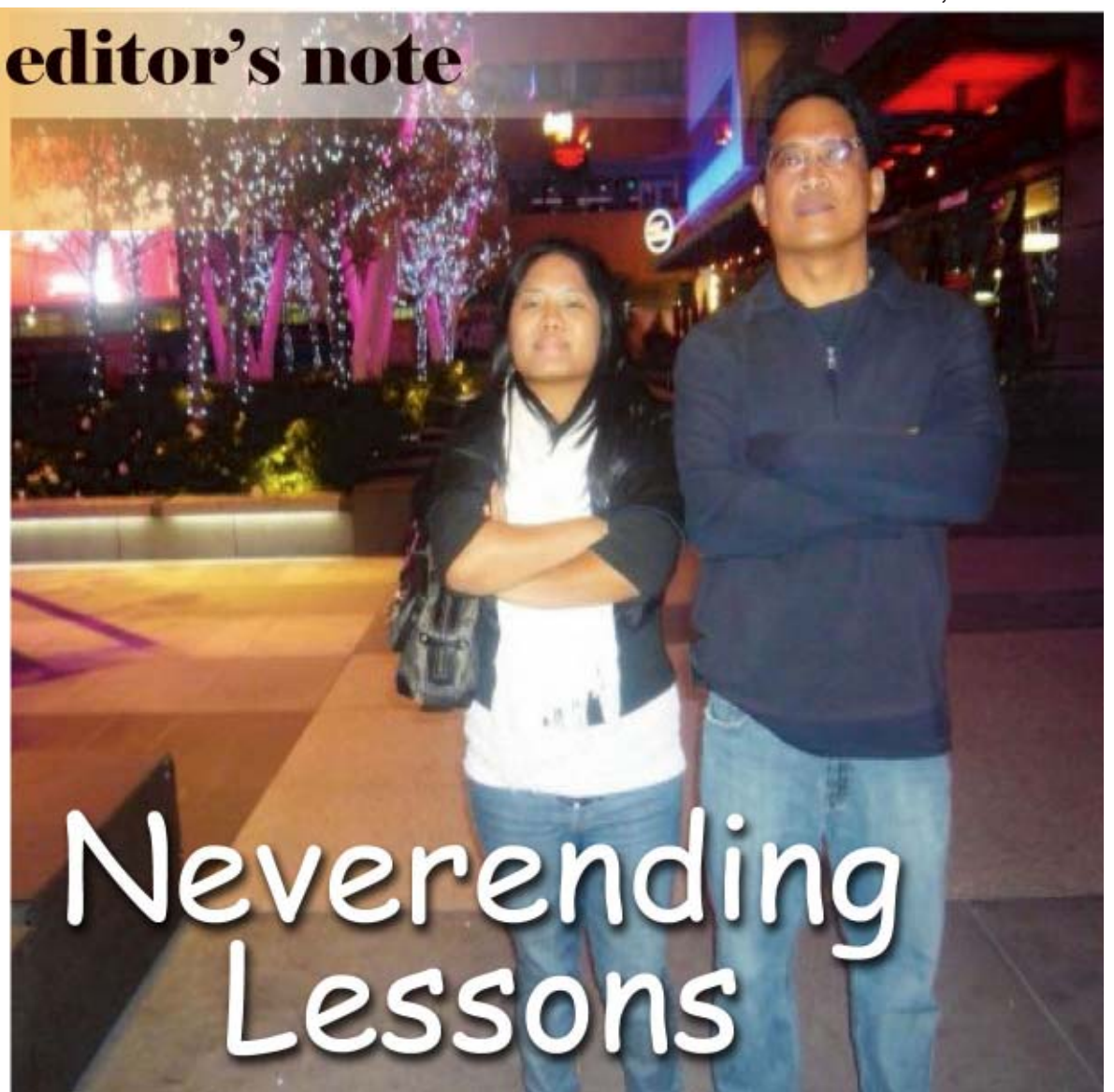
my comfort zone. Whenever fear and worry take over, he is always quick to dispel it from our minds, mouths, and mannerisms.

He has shown me and given an example of what hard work looks like.

He has shown by example the type of confidence that a person should have. I too hope I can exude the same type of confidence in my life.

He has shown me the opportunities that exist in front of me, but, at the same time, he has left the decision up to me in terms of which path to choose.

Thanks, dad, for all these lessons and the lessons to come. Happy Father's Day!



ELIZABETH L. ABINSAY, M.D.
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cover story



By LALAINA IGNAO

ABOUT OUR COVER



This beautiful picture of the Halagao family evokes great positive feelings of love and familial ties even as we celebrate Fatherhood in this issue of the Fil-am Courier.

Left to right: Jordan, AJ, Patricia and Marissa Halagao of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Photo Credit:

Julia Sieber of Sieber Studio.

Cover concept and design by Noah Felipe or OrigMedia. Mahalo to Jeff Orig of OrigMedia. Both Jeff and Noah can be reached at www.Origmedia.com or by calling 808 447 9559.



Time Managing Career and Family with AJ Halagao

"While my wife and children are my top priority, it's very important to me that I fulfill my responsibilities at work and my commitments to the community. I love my job and I treasure my community service. In my capacities at HEI and my board service at nonprofits, I get to help make Hawaii a better place. It's easy to make time for work when you love what you're doing and you have the support of your family."

Born in Ilocos Sur, Avelino Jimeno "AJ" Halagao, Jr. grew up in Washington D.C. and moved to Hawaii in 2000. He currently holds

the position of Manager of Corporate and Community Advancement at HEI, as well as Executive Vice President of the HEI Charitable Foundation. This foundation supports programs that foster educational excellence, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and community development. Within the Filipino community, HEI Charitable Foundation has supported the Filipino Community Center, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Operation Manong and Fil4Kids. Although this all may seem a lot already, Halagao's work does not end there.

Outside of his rewarding career, Halagao also volunteers for a variety of organizations, as chairman for the City & County of Honolulu's Grants-in-Aid Advisory Commission and as president of Hawaii Cares. "Additionally, I'm on the board of directors of some truly wonderful community organizations, including Filipino Community Center, After-School All-Stars, Aloha Medical Mission, UH Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship, Hawaii Presidential Center Initiative, and Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation," Halagao added.

"My children, Marissa and Jordan, mean the world to me, and in anything I do, they are my biggest inspirations. My favorite

Father's Day was my first one. Marissa was just a day old when we brought her home from the hospital on Father's Day. Since then, as a father, I've had the time of my life."

Despite his busy schedule, Halagao consistently makes time for his family. 12-year-old Marissa Halagao shared, "Whenever there's a big school event I'm involved in, 75% of the time Daddy would say, 'Hmmm I have to get to the office or to a doctor's appointment or I have a breakfast meeting . . . but I'll see if I can make

it.' And 100% of the time, when I gaze across the audience I will spot my Daddy in the back, getting coffee at the beverage table, ready to watch the show. I can always count on my Daddy to be there and put me in front of himself. He supports me by just simply being there." Her 10-year-old brother, Jordan, also agrees, stating that "Daddy is very involved. He always coaches me in soccer, baseball and basketball."

This father makes a conscious effort to drive his children to school every morning, even if it can

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sometimes be a struggle getting everyone ready for the day. *“But once we’re on the road, I really enjoy it. It’s a time for the three of us to be together, and a wonderful way to begin my day.”* As mentioned before, Halagao takes the time to attend his children’s events and spend time with them, taking the children out and sharing their passion for sports through activities and events. This, of course, becomes possible with the help of his other half, former Board of Education member and UH Professor Patricia Espiritu Halagao, who recently accepted a position where she will chair the Department of Curriculum Studies at the UH College of Education. Together, this powerhouse couple works with constant coordination and cooperation to balance everything in their life.

“Because her scholarship was groundbreaking, her career was a top priority in our household – more important than mine. I was going to do everything I could to support her career. Whether she had to teach an evening class or travel to the U.S. mainland to attend an education conference or take extra time for her research and writing, I would make sure I was home to take care of our family, and provide her the time that she needs.”

Earlier this month, Patricia was elevated to full professor at UH.

Because both sides of the extended families live on the mainland, the couple always syncs their schedules to make sure one of them, or a family friend, can help out with caring for the children and their basic needs. *“Ironically, our children’s schedules – with practices, games, art, music and hula lessons – can be even more*

hectic than ours. We make it work, but it takes a team effort.” Halagao shared that in order to keep a marriage alive, his guiding principles include compassion, compromise, listening and learning as well as the most important of all, love.

To Halagao, even though he holds many titles in his professional career and outreach life, the titles that mean the most to him include “Father, Husband and Son.” He shares, *“My careers and my companies change. But I will always be Marissa and Jordan’s father, Patricia’s husband, and the son of Avelino and Concepcion Halagao.”*

Lalaine Ignao moved to Oahu in 2016 with hopes of engaging with the Filipino community. A graduate of Seattle University with a degree in Strategic Communications, she enjoys writing lifestyle, cultural and profile stories along with reflective pieces that showcase her vulnerable and honest self. During her free time, you can find her dabbling in art projects, graduate school or in wanderlust.



AJ and Patricia with their children, Marissa and Jordan.



Patricia Halagao

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cover story



By LALAINE IGNAO

Cultural Differences in Marriage Is Not a Deterrent to Happiness

Cultural differences never crossed Timothy Lum's mind when he began dating his wife 42 years ago, let alone when they got married. "I just thought that I was dating this beautiful gal and we liked each other. I didn't look at it as this Chinese boy dating this Filipino girl." Instead of becoming immersed in his Chinese culture, Lum's parents brought him up with Catholic values and traditions. The extent of his cultural experience came from his mother speaking Chinese and grew up with the traditional fireworks on New Years. Even then, he felt like the tradition represented more of a Hawaiian custom than Chinese. "My mom would cook some Chinese food but for the most part, growing up my attitude was more of 'I'm in Hawaii.' I didn't have much of a Chinese identity even though I knew I was Chinese. I just felt like I was a regular boy growing up in Hawaii."



When Lum and his wife, Ailyn, started their family, cultural tradition and values did not have a huge impact on raising their children. "Our philosophy is that we want to raise our kids to be good kids who could contribute to the community. In terms of culture, we would expose them to their cultural background whenever we could."

The couple's family comprises of four kids, three boys and one girl. All the boys, Christopher, Mitchell and Daniel, have graduated from college and their daughter, Marissa, just finished her second year of schooling at the University of Hawaii but will transfer to Occidental University in Los Angeles and plans to study biology.



"When my kids were young, we did whatever we could to take care of them. When they got a little older and started to play sports, we supported them and became their transportation and, whenever I could, coach them." Lum embodies the type of father who consistently tried to stay active and present in his children's lives. "I was always the type of person where, even though my job needs me to work a whole week, I always have the attitude whenever I finished work that I'm going straight home because I have four kids and a wife at home. I don't want to go to the bar and drink with my coworkers. I want to go home and spend time with my family."

The biggest aspect of the children's upbringing that relates to Filipino culture comes from the fact that Ailyn and Tim provided them with a Catholic upbringing. Each child became an altar server and went through the whole regimen, receiving the sacraments up to Confirmation. Along with passing down their Catholic upbringing to the children, the Lum family takes the time to visit Ailyn's mother's home for dinner. "It's not hardcore Filipino food, it's local Hawaiian food. But she does make adobo, pinakbet and lumpia, which is the best." As his wife got older, Ailyn would become more active in the Filipino community and participate in a variety of organizations and events. "I support her and she invites me to all the events but she's okay if I say no every once in awhile. She would take one of

our children or one of her girlfriends or cousins. It's sort of a family affair." This also became another aspect of how Lum's children learned more about their Filipino heritage, along with Ailyn sharing stories about her father and his life growing up in the Philippines.

Out of all the cross cultural challenges that Lum could possibly go through, he points out the language barrier between him and his in-laws and understanding their Ilocano accent when speaking to him. "My oldest son actually picked up the language and would be my translator. Whenever they spoke in Ilocano, I would pull him aside and ask him, 'Chris! What are they talking about?'"

At the end of the day, all that matters to Lum consists of sharing his life with his family and enjoying life together. Regardless of their cultural differences, Lum and his wife choose to look beyond that and focus on their values and morals as a couple and as a family.

Lalaine Ignao moved to Oahu in 2016 with hopes of engaging with the Filipino community. A graduate of Seattle University with a degree in Strategic Communications, she enjoys writing lifestyle, cultural and profile stories along with reflective pieces that showcase her vulnerable and honest self. During her free time, you can find her dabbling in art projects, graduate school or in wanderlust.

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By ANGIE DYTIOCO SANTIAGO

My Dad – An Absolute Angel!

An “angel” is defined as a person of exemplary conduct or virtue. So it’s no wonder that my Dad was named “Angel” by my perceptive Lola Maria Sapitan.

Growing up, my Dad always taught us that, “Charity Begins at Home”. This was evident of his manifest love, devotion, and sacrifice for his family. Everything my Dad has done was always for his family.

Dad and my Mom Rubing have been sweethearts since their teenage years. At the age of 23, Dad joined the U.S. Navy. Five years later, Dad received an honorable discharge, and he and Mom got married three weeks later.

In 1965, Dad left his family behind in the Philippines in order to pursue a college education from the University of Hawaii using his G.I. Bill benefits. He became a full-time student at the University of Hawaii, living on a \$250-a-month veteran’s stipend most of which he sent home to his family. To help make ends meet, my Dad joined the Peace Corps and became a Tagalog language instructor and taught on the Big Island and Molokai. At the age of 38, Dad graduated from the U.H. with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and became the first of his siblings to graduate from college.

In 1972, Dad petitioned for his family to come to Hawaii. Growing up in Whitmore, we lived a simple

life, but felt blessed and not at all disadvantaged. We did everything as a family – from growing our own vegetables, fishing, crabbing, going to the beach, picking fruits around the island, and helping our Dad with his yard maintenance and janitorial services business. We took family trips to the Philippines to visit relatives and reconnected with our culture. My siblings and I took music lessons and soon the Dytioco Rondallia was formed, and we entertained at events and functions.

My Dad rarely asked for much, and anytime he was given any type of gift, his response would always be, “It’s EXACTLY what I want!” The only thing that he did ask for that truly made my Dad beam with pride and joy was for his four children – Noel, Leo, Solly, and myself - to graduate from college.

In the 56 years of my parents’ marriage and their 63 years of life together, my parents never failed to show their unconditional love for



Angel Dytioco proudly served the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1961.

one another and their constant devotion to their family.

My Dad retired from the Federal Government with 30 years of service. Recently, at the age of 83, he took an “early” retirement from the City & County of Honolulu to spend more time with my Mom. Nothing is more gratifying to my Dad than to care for her—cooking,



In 1971, Angel Dytioco graduated from the University of Hawaii with a BS in Agriculture.

doing laundry, cleaning the house, and helping out with her daily health needs.

Although my Dad taught us that “charity begins at home,” his charity went far beyond our home. It included helping out relatives back in the Philippines. Dad also paved the way by petitioning my maternal grandfather and my Mom’s six siblings and their families

so they can have a better life in America.

My Dad exemplified the virtues of being kind to others, giving back to the community, treating people with respect, overcoming obstacles, and practicing daily his belief that “Charity begins at home.” That’s why my Dad’s given name truly fits him — he is an absolute Angel!

Angie Dytioco Santiago, our Gathering Place columnist, is a U.H. Manoa graduate. Angie is currently a Governor of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH), the Recording Secretary of the Bulacan Circle & Associates of Hawaii (BCAH), and the Assistant Treasurer for the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH). She served as an Assistant Auditor for the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH) from 2015-2016, as 1st Vice President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) from 2013 to 2014, and as BCAH President from 2010 to 2012. She is the daughter of Angel & Rubing Dytioco and is married with two sons. She enjoys photography and participating in cultural and social activities and events.



Family picture of Angel and Rubing Dytioco's 50th Anniversary in 2011.



The Dytioco's family trip to San Francisco in 2014: Angie Santiago, Angelo Dytioco, Rubing and Angel Dytioco, Noel Dytioco, and Solly Dytioco.

legal pinoy



By **ATTY. RHODA YABES ALVAREZ, Esq.**



Long Distance Fatherhood

The issue of legal custody and physical custody over a child when parents divorce or partners separate is an emotional one. This is especially so when parties cannot communicate, which is the main reason for separation. However, there are workable solutions when the best interest of the child becomes the standard. Consider this scenario of our long distance father.

Question: My wife and I have been divorced and we have a child. In the divorce decree, we both agreed to joint legal custody and joint physical custody over our child. This arrangement worked for us having both agreed to live in the same area near our child's school with our decision to make the best interest of

our child our priority. Recently, my ex-wife has taken a promotion which requires her to move to the mainland. I am not objecting to our child leaving but I now that I am confronted with the prospect of separation, I wonder how I can maximize parenting my child while we are apart. How is this done in a legal setting?

Answer:

When the parent and the child live on different islands or in different states, time sharing between the non custodial parent and the custodial parent can prove tricky. However, with proper communication and

coordination between both parents, it can be done.

While it is true that the parent who is away from the child is limited by geographical distance, work schedule, variance in time zones, school schedules, budgetary constraints, among other considerations, nevertheless, available technology allows for various modes of interaction between parent and child while apart, such as Skype, Messenger, text, emails and telephone calls, on a regular or set time. Various forms of social media also allow an easy access for parent

and child to stay in touch and share information while physically apart.

With online access and information sharing, the long distance parent can be on top of the information regarding the child's care providers such as doctors, dentists, teachers, tutors, counselors, coaches and instructors. It is ideal for information about the child to be shared between parents when both have the best interest of the child despite the separation. Decisions can be arrived at with consensus including the child.

Usually, in a case where a child's parents live apart, the child will spend

time with the long-distance parent every other Christmas school break, every other spring break and for extended periods during summer breaks. The long distance parent will also get to spend time with the child when in the same locale without disrupting the child's regular schedule.

Separation is a necessary consequence of divorce. A healthy perspective towards time sharing can provide a workable solution and best results for all parties involved.

For actual cases and controversy, there is no substitute for the advice of a qualified attorney.

(Source: 2010 Hawaii Divorce Manual, Volume 1, Child Custody, page 7)



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Rhoda Yabes Alvarez, Esq. is an attorney with offices in Honolulu and the Philippines. She is licensed to practice law in Hawaii, New York and the Philippines. Atty. Yabes Alvarez can be reached at 1-808-589-7380 or by email at rmyalvarez@filamlaw.com. Her Honolulu office is located at 905 Umi St. Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96819. Visit her website at www.filamlaw.com.

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STATE FAIR MARKS 50TH YEAR

Celebrates Filipino Cultural Night on June 24



Kristian Lei

The State Fair will mark a significant milestone this year with its 50th year anniversary of bringing fun and excitement to the families of Hawaii.

To celebrate the occasion, EK Fernandez Shows and KPHI 96.7FM Filipino Radio are hosting a Filipino

Cultural Night at the 50th State Fair on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 5pm to 9pm at the Aloha Stadium Fairgrounds.

The Fil-Am Courier is the exclusive Filipino print media partner.

The theme of the Filipino Cultural Show is "Then and Now; Noon at

Ngayon" highlighting the mix of traditional and modern culture and will feature a full line up of entertainment to include Filipino music, Filipino traditional fashion show and Filipino dances. There will be a mix of Tagalog, Ilocano and English entertainment as well.

The lineup includes the following performers: Koro Filipino/Haranistas, The Techniqings Crew, Yssa West, The Bulacan Circle, Anna Davide, Jezbhel Leano, Julius Mina, Dabawenyos of Hawaii, The A-Trust Band and Kristian Lei.

Organizer of the event, Allan Alvarez is excited about bringing the cultural show to a mainstream audience: "This evening will be a tribute to the Filipino culture in Hawaii as this will be the first time in the history of the State Fair that an event like this will happen. We commend E.K Fernandez for recognizing how

the Filipino culture blends into the whole fabric of Hawaiian culture, and so, then decided to partner with 96.7FM KPHI Radio in putting together an event in time for the 50th State Fair."

"We invite everyone to come and check it out on June 24th. We hope this event will be a success so that it could become a permanent offering at each year's state fair for the next 50 years," Alvarez added.

For more information on the event, please contact Allan Alvarez at 808 392 8230.

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diversity & culture



By DANIEL B. EISEN, PhD
Associate Professor of Sociology
Pacific University

IMMIGRATION, THE AMERICAN DREAM, AND INJUSTICE:

Lessons from Lola

"My Family's Slave" written by Pulitzer prize winning author Alex Tizon was recently *The Atlantic's* cover story. As a masterfully written piece of prose it sent shockwaves throughout communities and has triggered important conversations in Filipino, Filipino-American, and non-Filipino communities across the globe. Each community's knowledge of and interactions with the Philippines and Filipino culture has led communities to focus on different parts of Tizon's story and come to divergent conclusions about the narrative and the issues embedded within it. Some are using the story to define *Katulong* culture and question why Filipinos support this practice. Others are debating whether it was ethical for Tizon to focus on his experience and minimize Eudocia Tomas Pulido's voice, while others are debating whether we are too eager to vindicate Tizon for his complicity in Pulido's enslavement. Still others are wondering if Tizon did enough to help Lola and if the Tizon family should provide the Palido family with reparations. All of the conversations are important as they encourage us to ask critical questions about modern day slavery. In writing the following, I do not seek to answer the questions that have emerged from

these debates. Instead I seek to add another layer of complexity to these discussions by arguing that the widespread reaction to Tizon's narrative may be a result of the fact that it presents us with a realistic image of capitalism, immigration, and the unfulfilled promise of the American Dream that we, as a country, do not want to talk about.

Conversations about structural issues are often diverted toward overly simplistic cultural arguments. For example, discussions about *Katulong* are often derailed by arguments that frame this practice as uniquely Filipino. This is a distraction that leads to essentialist questions such as "what is wrong with Filipinos" and "how can Filipinos have such a primitive culture", harkening back to the ways that colonizers depicted Filipinos. Cultural practices are not ahistorical and, therefore, *Katulong* must be understood in relationship to colonization and capitalism.

Although capitalism is often touted as a source of innovation, progress, and economic advancement, capitalism is also linked with high rates of poverty in marginalized groups. The history of colonization and capitalism in the Philippines has created high levels of poverty that has informed, and



continues to inform, the movement of Filipinos throughout the global labor markets that include paid, unpaid, and slave labor markets. Situating Pulido's exploitation within these structures forces us to confront that her experience is not a Filipino issue; rather, it is a global issue that disproportionately affects Filipinos in the Philippines. Framed as a problem of global capitalism, everyone becomes connected to Pulido's exploitation and must confront how we all contribute to the global capitalist project that enables the contemporary enslavement of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos. This, however, is more difficult than removing ourselves from the problem and simply blaming Filipino culture for the existence of *Katulong*.

Furthermore, "My Family's Slave" forces us to confront our beliefs about immigration and the unrealistic depiction of upward

social mobility in the United States. Many of my research participants developed their understanding of the Philippines through their family's immigration stories. These stories juxtapose the Philippines with the United States, framing the Philippines as a place to escape and the United States as a haven for growth. These narratives often ignore the positive aspects of the Philippines and the marginalization that Filipinos experience in the United States. Pulido's and the Tizon family's experiences contradict this narrative. According to Tizon, prior to migrating to the United States, his family employed a common trope about migration and told Pulido that things would be better in America. In the United States, Pulido remained enslaved, never received her promised allowance, and was only able to visit her home later in life. As unsettling as it may be to accept that modern slavery exists, it may

be even more unsettling that individuals who immigrated to the United States for something "better" struggled financially and continued to enslave Pulido. Eudocia Pulido forces us to see the dark reality of the American Dream; we are forced to acknowledge that life in the United States is not always better. We are forced to acknowledge that inhumane practices like slavery exist in the United States. Ultimately, it demonstrates that our conceptualizations of the Philippines and the United States, as well as our rationales for migration, are inherently flawed.

Instead of providing concrete answers within this article, I seek to raise more questions and encourage others to do the same. By applying the sociological imagination to Tizon's narrative, we see that it is about more than just his family or Filipino culture and provides insights into larger histories and social structures. Making these connections enables us to ask the critical questions that help us move toward a more just world.

Dr. Daniel Eisen grew up in Ewa Beach and graduated from Campbell High School before attending Pacific University, Oregon to earn his BA in Sociology. After living in Oregon for four years, he returned to Hawaii to earn his PhD in Sociology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where his doctoral work examined young adults' development of a Filipino ethnic identity in Hawaii. Daniel Eisen is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.



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By NANCY BERNAL

Once upon a time four teenage friends (Marlene Balduenza, Gissele Tejada, Joanne Banda and Kristina Babaran) started singing together for fun at the "Al Waterson and You" talent showcase at The Fisherman's Wharf in Honolulu. Their first song "I Will Follow Him" received a fantastic response and they decided to pursue a professional career as a musical group named Forte' in 1994. This beginning lead to a journey in the entertainment business that lasted for nine years. Under the management of Nancy Bernal, Forte' recorded three full length CDs, a CD single and their songs were included on numerous CD compilations. They performed throughout the islands of Hawaii, on the mainland and in Guam and Saipan. Some of their performance credits are concerts with "Destiny's Child", "N'Sync", "98 Degrees" and more.

After fifteen years of not performing together, the fairy tale now continues with a Forte' reunion performance on June 24 at a concert presented by Tantriq Entertainment and Ray Jr. at The Aloha Tower Marketplace called "Stuck in the 90's" where they will perform one more time with two nationally-acclaimed groups, "Shai" and "All-4-One". Tickets are available at www.tmrevents.com

The memorable moments from their days as one of the Top Musical Groups in Hawaii are still instilled in their hearts. For Gissele, Joanne and Marlene, one of their favorite memories is performing for thousands of students at the D.A.R.E. program at Aloha Stadium.



Forte' - 2017 Left to right: Gissele, Joanne, Kristina and Marlene

For Kristina, winning the Grand Prize in the nationally-televised talent competition "Destination Stardom" was a highlight. All four members agree that winning that competition was one of their biggest achievements. They also realize the impact they had on the people of Hawaii, young and old, with their role model image influencing children and teens to strive to reach their goals and bringing joy to all ages with their hit tunes.

The four talented girls that sang together in the nineties are now four ladies with individual careers and they are busy raising their children. Marlene Markos is married to elan and has two daughters. Gissele Tejada is happy with her boyfriend, Colin, and has one son. Joanne Bonilla is married to David and has one daughter. And Kristina Acidera is married to Mark and has four sons.

When presented with the question, "What does being a member of Forte' mean to you?", each member expressed their feelings. Marlene said "Forte' is a

musical sisterhood for life". Gissele replied "Love and friendship forever". Joanne's answer was "Experiencing and creating life long memorable moments with my musical DNA sisters". And Kristina summed it up with "Being a member of Forte' means forever friendships".

Through the years, Forte' is grateful to God and to the people who supported them in pursuing their dreams. They would like to thank their families, Nancy Bernal, Al Waterson, Chris Hubbard, Darryl Hill, Dave Tucciarone, Elan Markos, Jason Lent, sponsors, vocal

instructors, choreographers and a special mahalo to their fans.

The Forte' fairy tale will come alive again on June 24 at their reunion concert and they will live "happily ever after".



Forte' from the 90's Left to right: Joanne, Gissele, Marlene and Kristina.

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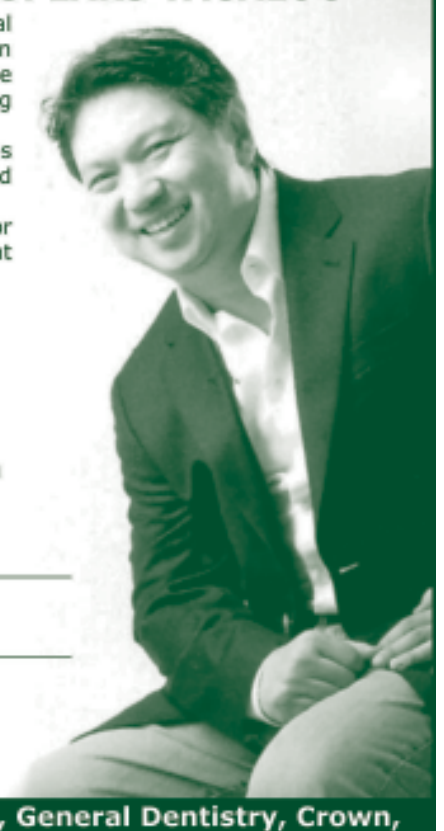
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piece of mind



By DR. AL SISON

What is your purpose in life?

The Invitation

By Oriah Mountain Dreamer

*"It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.
I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.
It doesn't interest me how old you are.
I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool
for love,
for dreams,
for the adventure of being alive.
It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon.
I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow,
If you have been opened by life's betrayals
or have become shriveled and closed
from fear of further pain!
I want to know if you can sit with pain,
mine or your own,
without moving to hide it
or fade it
or fix it.
I want to know if you can be with joy,
mine or your own;
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes
without cautioning us to
be careful,
be realistic,
remember the limitations of being a human.
It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me
is true.
I want to know if you can
disappoint another
to be true to yourself;
If you can bear the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
If you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.
I want to know if you can see beauty*

*even when it's not pretty every day.
And if you can source your life
from its presence.
I want to know if you can live with failure,
yours and mine,
and still stand on the edge of the lake
and shout to the silver of the full moon,
'Yes!'*

*It doesn't interest me
to know where you live or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up
after the night of grief and despair,
weary and bruised to the bone,
and do what needs to be done
to feed the children.
It doesn't interest me who you know,
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the centre of the fire
with me
and not shrink back.
It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom
you have studied.
I want to know what sustains you
from the inside,
when all else falls away.
I want to know if you can be alone
with yourself;
and if you truly like the company you keep
in the empty moments."*

What do you tell a person in her senior age of life who is 83 years old, with no limited physical challenges, is financially stable, and emotionally present but sits across from you with a blunted and stooped indifference?

The person lives with her children, but "the kids are too old for me to baby sit, even my grandkids work all day."

The individual I saw in my professional capacity, wakes up every day with no sense of being, no motivating force to challenge the mind other than "should I eat something or just go back to sleep or pull the weeds outside."

What I said to this patient in fifteen minutes elicited some feedback. I found out she was a retired nurse, worked 40 years in a pediatric hospital with intense and challenging cases; three children, nine grandchildren, a few still live in her home but are "too busy" to have a meal with her.

Concerned siblings and a niece from a neighbor island accompanied the patient. The goal was to receive some medical / behavioral health advice to help curb the symptoms no one could believe she was presenting that day.

What did I say? Before I tell you, let me share the central themes of this poem which guided me in my counselling.

So what did I say to the wise, sageful, but saddened eyes of this 83 year old. I asked her: "what is your purpose?"

She looked up with fire spark in her eyes and begin to say her peace.

Sometimes life is really about timing, listening, and empathy.

Aloha, Peace, Mabuhay, Amen.
- Dr Al. If you may have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me via my website: www.alspsy.com

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Alfred A. Sison, MA, LMFT, PsyD; "Dr. Al" is a licensed clinical psychologist with a subspecialty license in marriage and family therapy. He services individuals, couples, and families through the therapeutic process, and maintains a private practice in Honolulu, HI. He holds a Doctorate of Psychology (PsyD), Clinical Psychology degree from Argosy University, Hawaii Campus and a Master of Arts (MA), Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy Specialty from the American School of Professional Psychology, Hawaii Campus. He completed his undergraduate studies with a degree in Bachelor of Arts (BA), Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley.

living life



SUMMER GRILLING SAFETY



Summer is here and its time for fun in the sun. Nothing says summer like firing up the grill outdoors and cooking some your favorite dishes. Before you get your grill heated up, here are a few safety tips.

DO's

- **Use your grill at least 10 feet away from your house.** Never use the grill indoors, including garages or porches. The grill should be on a flat and even surface. Also, try to keep home décor away from the grill, as these items could become fuel for a fire.
- **Clean your grill regularly.** Each time the grill's fired up, let the grate heat up over intense heat for about five to ten minutes. This will burn away any food, bacteria, or grease that may be remaining. Once the grill stops smoking, use a grill brush to scrape away any left over grime from the grates. If you allow grease to build up, it can lead to flare ups.
- **Keep a spray bottle of water handy.** If there is a minor flare-up you can spray it with water to instantly calm it down. The bonus is that water will not harm your food.

DON'TS

- **Never turn on a gas grill while the grill lid is closed.** It causes gas to build up inside your grill, and when you do light it and open it, a fireball can explode in your face.
- **Never leave a grill unattended.** Fires double in size every minute. Plan ahead so that all of your other food prep chores are done and you can focus on grilling.
- **Never overload your grill with food.** This applies especially fatty meats. The basic reason for this tip is that if too much fat drips on the flames at once, it can cause a large flare-up that could light nearby things on fire.



SUMMER SKIN CARE

Summer means spending more time out in the sun. Too much sun can damage the skin and often times lead to sunburn. Sunburns are caused by UV radiation rather than sun's heat. It doesn't have to be a hot day to get sunburn. Here are some tips and ways to treat getting burned by the sun!

Here's How to Treat a Sunburn:

1. Get out of the sun. Staying in the sun after the burn is present will make it worse.
2. A sunburn could seem worse the next day, and it can get worse before it gets better. Be on the lookout for blisters. Blistering means that the skin is completely damaged and complications are likely. If the area with blisters is bigger than one entire arm or the whole abdomen, you may need to seek medical care to treat the burn.
3. Take a cool shower or bath to soothe the pain.
4. Apply aloe or another cooling agent to help soothe the pain.
5. While the burn is healing, wear loose fitting clothing.

Jordan Segundo is most noted as the first contestant from Hawaii and the first Filipino-American selected as a Top 32 finalist on season two of *American Idol*. Since then, he has made a name for himself as one of Hawaii's top entertainers. In addition to singing, he has branched out into acting and television hosting. He is currently the weekend weather anchor and a reporter for KITV4 Island News. Aside from performing, Segundo is also very active in the community. He generously volunteers his time and talents to worthy causes and non-profit organizations, such as the Ronald McDonald House Charities, the D.A.R.E. Program and the Fur Angel Foundation. When not performing, Jordan enjoys working out, cooking and hiking. To contact Jordan Segundo, visit his website at www.jsegundo.com



MANGO TIME!

It's Mango Season. If you have a mango tree in your back yard or just love mango, try this refreshing and healthy smoothie, perfect for breakfast. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It's the meal that gets everything started, including your metabolism. Yet so many people skip it!

Ingredients:

- 1 1 banana
- 2 ½ cup orange juice
- 3 ½ frozen pineapple
- 4 ¼ cup plain greek yogurt
- 5 half a fresh mango
- 6 1 scoop Burt's Bees™ Protein + Healthy Radiance - Vanilla
3 ice cubes

Add everything to the blender, blend until smooth.

gathering place



By ANGIE DYTIOCO SANTIAGO

FCCH's 23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament a Success!



PAL District Sales Representative May Thompson, FCCH President Bernadette Fajardo, Round Trip to Manila winner Tex Balmaceda, and FCCH Immediate Past President Sam Acosta.

For the past 23 years, the annual Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) Scholarship Golf Tournament has been generating funds to award outstanding scholarship recipients. This year's golf tournament held at the Ewa Beach Golf Course drew 82 players and brought together local business and community leaders for a day of networking while enjoying fresh air and friendly competition on the greens. The players were treated to lunch which included an all-you-can-eat sushi bar. The event ended a perfect day with a buffet dinner and awards ceremony. Profits raised from this tournament were used to award 9 scholarship recipients ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Santiago, Vanessa Tan, Alex Vergara, Conrad Abuel, and Jonathan Agas.

If you are a golf enthusiast, mark your calendar for next year's FCCH's Golf Tournament which will be held on April 6, 2018, at the Ewa Beach Golf Course.

2017 Golf Tournament winners:

First Place:
Francis Robiniol
Orlino Ancheta
Noland Thompson

2nd Place:
Ray Man
Sean McDonnell
Joey Siera

3rd Place:
Jessie Magaoay
Tex Balmaceda
Joe Quibuyen

23rd Winner:
Mel Kahele
Buzzy Hong
John Kaopua

This year's golf tournament committee was led by FCCH President Bernadette Fajardo and chaired by Eddie Agas. The committee included: Linda Abuel, Rocky Anguay, Susie Berardy, Rose Galanto, Luz Peirson, Angie



Ben Cabreros, Buddy Gendrano, Sam Aquino, and Lino Visaya.



Roland Casamina poses a picture with his teammates.



Golf Tournament Committee: FCCH President Bernadette Fajardo, Assistant Treasurer Angie Santiago, Treasurer Linda Abuel, FCCH's Vice President and Golf Tournament Chairperson Eddie Agas, Via Gallardo, Espie Badua, Lynne Gutierrez, and Director Rose Galanto.



Participants enjoyed the all-you-can-eat dinner buffet.

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education



By IVEE CRUZ

On June 17th, the Hôkûle'a returns to the shores of O'ahu after the historic Worldwide Voyage. It marks a momentous occasion in the history of Hawai'i and a moment that will be remembered for a lifetime.

A decade ago, I had the honor of hearing Nainoa Thompson share his story of Hôkûle'a. It was among a group of 44 fellows from 22 different countries participating in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center on the campus of University of Hawai'i at Mânoa. It was a beautiful evening of storytelling. The event lasted 4 hours, where we sat in the dark with the lights off in Imin Center, as if on a canoe in the middle of the ocean underneath the stars. That day, the story of Hôkûle'a and Nainoa's example of leadership impacted my life in a lasting way.

Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to hear world renowned speakers, such as former President Bill Clinton, Maya Angelou, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and numerous others. Yet, for me, Nainoa was the first person that "spoke to your heart, from his heart." His story was deep and meaningful; it was personal and profound.

From that day on, I have been honored to volunteer as part of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and set with the esteemed responsibility of carrying forward the legacy of Hôkûle'a, the values of Hawai'i, and wayfinding.



He Wa'a He Moku He Moku He Wa'a
*The canoe is our classroom,
 the classroom is our canoe*

The author (Ivee) and crew members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society during Ivee's wedding.

The traditions of Polynesian voyaging taught me about my history as a Filipino immigrant and my ancestors. I learned about the commonalities between seafaring communities and island nations. Learning about Hôkûle'a encouraged me to take the time to learn more about my own history. For example, my family has since discovered our links to Polynesian ancestry as we traced our genealogy. One thing that is clear: Filipinos, Hawaiians, and Polynesians are ocean people. We are Pacific people who are united by one ocean.

As an educator at the University Laboratory School, I have been fortunate to bring forth the values of voyaging in the work that I do and share the message with the youth of Hawai'i in two significant ways. One, I developed a course called *Global Leadership*, which allows students to explore the world, while learning about culture, diversity, social justice, and wayfinding.

human rights, and international issues. Two, in my College and Career Counselor role, I have encouraged students to navigate their lives with the spirit of Hôkûle'a as a guide. Ultimately, I hope to do my part in contributing to the mission of Mâlama Honua, caring for our Island Earth.

There are many things we can do as a community to Mâlama Honua, take care of ourselves and each other, and care for the 'aina. The core values that guide the Hôkûle'a are:

- Aloha : *To love*
- Mâlama : *To care for*
- 'Imi 'Ike : *To seek knowledge*
- Lokomaika'i : *To share with each other*
- Na'au Pono : *To nurture a deep sense of justice*
- Olakino Maika'i : *To live healthy*

A community, island, nation and world guided by these values is a place I would hope to raise my young son in. There is much each of us can learn from Hôkûle'a, the Worldwide Voyage, and the values of wayfinding. My hope is that the



Aboard Noa Noa Waikoloa

messages of Mâlama Honua that were woven like a lei around our Earth, is one that will continue to inspire our world, and whose ripples of hope continue to reach across the oceans into the hearts of leaders, community members, and our children. May the legacy of the Worldwide Voyage be one that cultivates the world our children deserve.

For more information about the Hôkûle'a homecoming please visit www.hokulea.com.

Ivee Cruz was born in Marikina, Philippines with family roots from Mindanao and Luzon. She is currently a Doctoral Student in the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mânoa. Ivee has a M.A. in International Education Development from Teachers College, Columbia University and a B.A. Global & International Studies and Sociology from University of California at Santa Barbara.



Ivee and son Chirayu

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political news



By JACO GALLARDE

The New Face of Hawaii's GOP is a Filipina

Nightly discussions about politics, patriotism, and what it means to be an American were regular events around the family dining table in the home of incoming Hawaii Republican Party Chair and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Shirlene Dela Cruz Santiago Ostrov, whose father was a 1st generation Filipino American who served in the United States Navy.

It was this dynamic environment that would shape her commitment to conservative values and a willingness to serve, which continued throughout college and her career in the Air Force, where she retired not so long ago at the rank of Colonel.

Humble Origins, Conservative Roots

Born in Waipahu and raised in Mililani, Ostrov traces her roots back to Batangas from her father's side and also from Bulacan from her mother's side.

Ostrov feels strongly connected to traditional Filipino values while at the same time learning how to honor her country and its boundless opportunities.

"We were always talking about how to be good Americans, how to give back," said Ostrov. "There's an inherent connection to Filipino culture and traditional conservative values across the board."

"I grew up in a traditionally catholic family with seven other brothers and sisters, family was very important and those values transcended," explained Ostrov, "as I pass those values on to my twin 16 year-old daughters who will be entering their senior year of high school this year."

Leaving the Nest

After attending Mililani High School, Ostrov continued her studies through ROTC (Reserve Officer Training School) eventually earning a

degree from the University of Florida, and subsequently earning a Masters of Business Administration from Troy State University in Alabama, and a Masters of Organizational Management from The George Washington University.

"Being in the south I was often mistaken for someone of Mexican heritage," Ostrov laughingly recalled. "It was quite an experience having come from a place like Hawaii, but luckily my parents taught me how to carry myself with confidence, and it never bothered me."

Colonel Ostrov

Ostrov rose up the ranks in the U.S. Air Force, serving in over 10 duty stations domestic and abroad over a 23 year career. Her considerable resume includes serving as a legislative liaison to congress as well as working for the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and other high-level diplomats and missions.

"My experience as an officer in the military really taught me the importance of national security and how policies at the highest level of government truly matter," said Ostrov.

In addition to serving in command posts, Ostrov also served as a legislative liaison to U.S. Congress.

Return Home

In 2014, Ostrov returned to Hawaii where she retired from the Air Force and became the President and CEO of her own business firm, Ares Mobility Solutions. She also made a bit of a political homecoming, running in the most recent special election for the late Congressman Mark Takai's seat in Congress.

Despite the former incumbent Democratic Rep. Colleen Hanabusa winning the special election, Ostrov remained engaged with fellow conservatives and supporters across the state, and was named as the

incoming Hawaii Republican Party Chair on May 13, 2017.

"There is a lot of opportunity for change," said Ostrov with passion in her voice. "There is an undeniable need for new ideas - a lot of things are not working for us in government, particularly because there's not enough opposition. Our voices will be heard."

Engaging Our People

As the official voice for conservatives in Hawaii, Ostrov also serves a constituency that she believes can be engaged better.

"There are so many conservative voices in our Filipino community waiting to be heard," said Ostrov. "Many of our traditional Filipino values are aligned with the party, from small business owners to devout churchgoers - the question really is how to engage our people, how to organize, and how to bring people into the fold."

Ostrov particularly pointed to "overreaching government



regulations" as an important issue to many Filipino business people.

"As the HRP Chair, this is a unique opportunity to engage conservative members of the Filipino Community like they have not been before, they're out there."

Ostrov is also focused on empowering the next generation of Filipino American leaders. "Get out there find an issue you care about, and become involved with people and groups that align with your values," implored Ostrov, "get involved - it is in our DNA to be politically active."

Bryan Jaco Gallarde is a professional communicator, with over 10 years of political campaign, government, and non-profit experience, specializing in Asian American community work. When not writing for the Fil-Am Courier, he is eating his way through a bucket list of restaurants in Hawaii and abroad and practicing his Tagalog.



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by Amy

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the art scene



By KATHLEEN LEE

Just in time for Philippine Independence Day celebrations in June, the art group Earth Philippines visited Hawaii to showcase their artwork aimed at highlighting Filipino culture and talent. The Earth Philippines collective is also dedicated to protecting the environment and celebrating life through the arts. One of the group's accomplished artists, Love Marie Ongpauco-Escudero – also known as Heart Evangelista to those who follow the Filipino television and movie scene – shared with the Fil-Am Courier her involvement with the art exhibit.

"This was through my husband's office – they requested if I could join their exhibit, and I'm also close with some of the artists." Ongpauco-Escudero is married to Philippine Senator Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero, whose paintings are also on display with the rest of the Earth Philippines masterpieces. "It was really nice for me to have this exhibit with them, especially as an actress. I've been painting seriously now for about four to five years, and it's such an honor to be with all these amazing artists, so I'm very happy about it." When asked about the significance of Filipino artists' works being featured outside of the Philippines, Ongpauco-Escudero responded, "It's huge for me. I didn't really realize that we would have this huge event. The farthest that my



When Art and Environmental issues Align

paintings have gone was in Singapore which was two years ago, so (the exhibit being in Hawaii) is really nice for us. Especially with so many Filipinos here in Hawaii – it's nice to share this with them."

The actress/artist/entrepreneur mentioned that her pieces that are traveling with the Earth Philippines exhibit are part of her 2018 collection called, "Love Marie In Full Bloom." "I'm doing a lot of florals," she stated, and mentioned her hope that her artwork would be seen as evoking "women power."

"It's nice to be in Hawaii as a Filipino, especially since there are so many Filipinos here." Ongpauco-Escudero's statement reflected the results from the 2010 U.S. Census whose numbers indicated that Filipinos and part-

Filipinos now make up the second-largest racial group in Hawaii: approximately 350,000. "I've spoken to some Filipinos here (during my stay), and a lot of them don't know how to speak Tagalog. So maybe this (exhibition) can serve as a reminder about all of these great events happening here, that we should learn more about the Philippines, and think of actually going back to our roots."

On June 9 and 10, the art exhibit titled, "Mabuhay Philippines! The Gift of Art to Mother Earth and Her Children" was on display at The ARTS at Marks Garage in downtown Honolulu. The pieces were later displayed at the 119th Philippine Independence Day Gala at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. Along with Love Marie Ongpauco-Escudero (Heart Evangelista) and Philippine Senator Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero, the other talented Filipino artists on the Earth Philippines roster include Ligaya "Jing" Banawan, Rafael "Popoy" Aranello Cusi, Lloyd Orosa, Pancho Piano, and Fidel Malig Sarmiento. "EARTH stands for Environment, ART and Humanity," said Banawan, referring to the group's name. Indah Fides Delgado, who was instrumental in bringing the Filipino artists' exhibit to Hawaii, stated, "we do this for the community." Some proceeds from the exhibit will go towards various community programs for Hawaii's keiki and kupuna.

Kathleen Lee was born in the Philippines and spent a portion of her early childhood in Baguio and Manila, raised in San Jose, California, and currently lives and thrives in Honolulu. She currently works as a senior policy advisor for a Hawaii-based consulting firm.



The author with event organizer Fides Delgado and actress/artist Heart Evangelista.

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eye care



By **STEVEN RHEE, D.O.**
Corneal Specialist at Hawaiian Eye Center

June is designated Cataract Awareness Month by the American Academy of Ophthalmology because over 24 million Americans suffer from this eye disease, according to Prevent Blindness America and the National Eye Institute. If left untreated, cataracts can lead to blindness.

Cataracts are a natural process of aging. It occurs when the normally clear lens of the eye becomes cloudy and light for the retina to process images is blocked and distorted. Signs of cataracts include blurred vision, sensitivity to light, fading or yellowing of colors, poor night vision, sensitivity to glare and seeing a halo around bright lights.

Some of the risk factors associated with cataracts include: exposure to ultraviolet light, diet, smoking, diabetes, use of some steroid medications and serious eye injuries.

Although cataracts are a very serious health issue, it is treatable. Cataract surgery is one of the most common operations performed in the U.S.; the process involves removing



Cataracts: Serious But Treatable

the eye's clouded lens and replacing it with an artificial lens implant. With modern cataract surgery, patients can usually upgrade the procedure to include vision correction to reduce dependency on glasses and contact lenses for those with refractive errors. Very little pain or discomfort

is reported and surgery is typically outpatient.

At Hawaiian Eye Center, we use the most advanced technology and were one of the first in Hawaii to utilize "Laser Assisted Cataract Surgery" with femtosecond laser. This technology allows for the opportunity to enhance the outcome

of surgeries and offers patients the ability improve vision impairments near, far and in between.

If you're 40 and over, you should have a comprehensive dilated eye exam every two to three years from your eye care professional. If you're 40 and over with other risk

Steven Rhee, D.O., is a board-certified ophthalmologist at Hawaiian Eye Center. Along with his colleague Christopher Tortora, M.D., Medical Director of Hawaiian Eye, Dr. Rhee hosts "The Hawaiian Eye Show," a weekly informational radio program about healthy vision broadcast live every Saturday at 8 a.m. on KHVH 830 AM/rebroadcast at 9 p.m. on KHBZ 990 AM. Hawaiian Eye's dedicated doctors and support staff are committed to educating the public about the importance of preventative eye care. To learn more about a variety of eye health issues, please call 621-8448 or visit HawaiianEye.com and [Facebook.com/HawaiianEyeCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HawaiianEyeCenter). "For over 40 years, life has never looked better."

factors or 60 and over, you should get an eye exam once a year.

Preventative measures like a healthy diet and regular exercise can reduce your risk of forming cataracts. An early diagnosis can also help you protect your vision. Speak with your eye care professional.

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and blessed to have you.**



**Leticia and Hermie
Tesoro**

To a Loving and Awesome husband and Dad:

From Lauren - Jessica:
Dad, thank you for being the
most understanding and
funniest person I know.
You are the best dad in the
world! Thank you for
providing and letting me live
my life.



Dan & Donna Higuchi

**From Christian
(the Green Ranger):**
Dad-- Happy Father's Day!
Thank you for being the
protector and provider for our
family. You have taught me how
to be patient and to think of
others before myself.
I pray that one day when I
become a father, I can be half
you are to me, Lauren,
Hunter and Ciara. Love you so
much, dad.

From Ciara:
Dad thanks for always being there for
me whenever I needed help
with things. From helping me with my
homework when I was a kid to
teaching me how to drive. Thanks for
always being funny and making jokes.
You've taught me how to do so much
things I'll use in life and I'm so
grateful for that. And thank you for
getting me started on a career path
I soon to strive in.
Love you dad...



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**From your loving wife,
Charmen Valdez**



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hardworking husband like you.

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we love you so very much!**

From your loving wife Amy and your two wonderful children
Jamie Marie and Ben Kurtis

