

WWII Vets and July 4

The brotherhood brings these two together of a proud shared Pinoy ancestry.

Page 1



Filipino Wedding Traditions

A unique perspective into our shared cultural practice celebrated Hawai'i-style.

Page 1



Junior ROTC a Life-Changer

This young lady finds career goals and positive focus with this ongoing school program. See "Google Is Not Everything."

Page 8



FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

June 2018 • Vol 2 No 6

FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

inside



Packed with Vitamin C, this Philippine citrus will change your health.

p.6



This celebrated Sakada's offspring remains active in our community today.

p.7



Legislators will come and go but the voice of the people must endure.

p.9

Celebrating July 4th—Freedom is Not Free

Elizabeth Ayson



The presentation of the finished **Declaration of Independence** by Thomas Jefferson in Philadelphia was on July 4, 1776. The Declaration was signed and copies of the text were transported to key cities such as New York and Boston to be read aloud.

PHOTO COURTESY AOC.GOV



On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress, representing 13 colonies, declared its freedom from British governance, and issued the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This is perhaps the most famous sentence in

see JULY 4TH p.2

A June Plantation Wedding

Christine Sabado

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is excerpted from Christine Sabado's soon-to-be published memoirs. The Sabados celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on June 14.

As we were about to enter the little plantation house, my nervousness overwhelmed me. Perhaps it was the moment but suddenly the perfume of the profusion of flowers and the orchids that lined the porch embraced and absorbed me. I paused on a step crusted with the russet soil of the fields and looked to the man who would be my husband. Our eyes locked in the moment. Stuttering at first, I swallowed hard and caught

my courage and centered it in the moment to whisper "This is it then, if we don't work out, you cannot bring another girl to meet the family."

Philip was jittery as he stuttered and struggled to make the formal introduc-

tions. Everyone had frozen in place as his sister and nieces peered over each other at the kitchen door, all eyes watched to see how this was going to go.

I could see that to them he was their treasured jewel. The

youngest of twelve children, he was the *buridik*, the favored son. Finally, under his mother's proud and loving gaze, Philip blurted, "Ma, dis Christine, my friend." He stopped abruptly, seemingly

see WEDDING p.3



Philip and Christine Sabado and their wedding entourage wore traditional Filipino attire.

PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

FREE

July 4th...
from p. 1

The Declaration. (The Constitution of the United States of America would be signed on September 17, 1787 and the first ten amendments to the Constitution, commonly called the “Bill of Rights” would be adopted on December 15, 1791.)

Two hundred forty two years later, America continues to celebrate the Fourth of July as a national holiday. “To celebrate Independence Day of the United States as a nation, where you are an individual, speaks volumes to me. I can be a free thinker, not having to bow down to nobility but to have the opportunity to have upward mobility,” declared Kulamanu Batan-

gan, a millennial. “It reinforces the value of my ability to pursue my own personal dreams.”

“Living in the USA, we have certain freedoms and on this holiday we remember that we are enjoying all that we are privileged to have,” said Mistylove Carino Apo. “It has a lot to do with our soldiers. We have to give them more respect. We should all be excited to celebrate this special day.”

For veterans, the Fourth of July has a very special meaning: “July 4th, Independence Day, inspired me to serve in the military,” said Lucio Calina. “I was in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-three years and went to Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom. Back in Alaska, I was a National Guardsman, a reservist, as supervisor of the helicopter maintenance crew that did



Acob, an immigrant, fully understands the benefits of freedom.
PHOTO COURTESY BEN ACOB



Balicanta, a former educator, believes in the value of education.
PHOTO COURTESY LORETTA BALICANTA

both military and civilian air rescues.”

“It is a time to salute the military,” responded businessman Leon Bolosan. “In the Philippines, we celebrate the Independence Day of America and the Philippines. Every year our families had parties and got to see each other, talk, and eat and laugh a lot. Friends come with more food and all the kids played together.”

For many immigrants, the Fourth of July has a special meaning: “It means the celebration of the birth of the United States that eventually became the land of opportunity, the land of safety, where many people from different countries came to make a new life, including me,” stated attorney Benjamin Acob, as he was about to step into the courthouse in Wailuku.

All Americans are connected by the common thread of citizenship in a nation that is bound not by race or religion but by the shared values of freedom, liberty and equality. The nation’s history shows a long legacy of welcome to new arrivals from around the world. There is broad recognition that immigrants have contributed greatly to defining and shaping the country in its evolution to becoming a leader among modern democratic nations, and also looked to as the beacon of hope for the people in many places, wanting the same freedoms for which thousands have fought to preserve. Almost 250 years after America’s national birth, naturalized citizens still play an important role in promoting the meaning of democracy.

And yes, here in Hawai’i, many celebrate the Fourth of July by going to the beach, having a picnic, and eating some hotdogs and hamburgers or some ono local food like *sashimi*,

adobo, kal-bi, lau lau, and noodles.

“From the time I was very young, July 4th was a family affair. We always looked forward to this holiday. Every year my father made *lechon*,” recalled Loretta Balicanta. “We had fireworks and singing together with others in the neighborhood, at our house or the community center near us.”

Jeny Bissell cheerfully chatted about the way she and her husband were putting out the flags for Memorial Day, remembering that Memorial Day is connected to Independence Day, “which always gives us a sense of



Bissell, a nurse, is a strong advocate on matters relating to public health.
PHOTO COURTESY JENY BISSELL

hope and being kind to one another. Too often we are forgetting our humanity. We have faith, hope, love and kindness, learning to care for each other, bringing hope for all of us.”

Over the last month, several conversations with veterans and their family members have made clear to me the important observation that most Americans have lost the connection between July 4th, Independence

see JULY 4TH p.4



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Christine, and her entourage wait outside the church along with their ring-bearer before the wedding ceremony.
PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

Wedding...

from p. 1

unable to go on, time was suspended as we waited for Mama’s reply. She lifted her head to see me as her dark penetrating eyes saw into mine. Her voice was clear and her first words in broken English would never leave me.

“My son is a poor boy... And you are not, why you like marry him?” She did not pose the question in an arrogant or aggressive tone it was simply a question.

My answer came without pause and still makes me stop and reflect on the wisdom I was given on this day, “Yes, that may be true, but he will not always be a poor boy, will he? Things will change.” Her response was immediate as she cupped her hand to her mouth; a smile creased her frail face as she gave a knowing chuckle.

The next evening, Philip was asked to go to his parents’ room to talk story. It seemed he was with them for hours. I was so anxious; I grew weary and succumbed to the long day and drifted off into a deep sleep. I awoke when a lone beam of light from the hallway filled the room like an arrow seeking its mark. He opened the door slowly to check if I was still awake.

I sat up immediately and pulled myself together, trying to sit poised and natural, even though I was as nervous as if I’d been on my first date. When he did not speak, I grew impatient and blurted, “Did they like me? Am I okay? Your Mom is sort of spooky but your Dad is really sweet. Hmmm, I don’t think your sisters like me very much.” When he still did not answer, I demanded “Tell me now.” My mind reeled. After all, what had they been talking about so long? I was so anxious; I must have sounded like a fast train that had derailed with my wheels spinning in the air.

He smiled in his innocent way, laughing at me, as always and rolling his eyes “Too late to back out now. They are going to start fattening the pigs!”

The question of how many pigs, cows and chickens would be required for cooking at the party was a critical point. Most of the talk at the table from there on revolved around this main topic. Many nights were spent in serious discussion about whose pigs and cows to buy. How much garlic and bay leaf would be needed? Not to mention the quantity of dishes served. I was amazed and stood back with true awe to observe the intense planning and discussions that revolved around the party. A main point discussed was about who would hold the honor as the main cook—the *Luna*—the boss who



Philip and Christine in their nuptial vehicle.
PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

would call the shots in the end. His pay was Seagram’s 7 whiskey; enough for himself and his crew.

All of this organization was a science for them. This Filipino family loved nothing more than a good party. In the end we had three pigs (more than nine hundred pounds of pork), ninety-five chickens and two cows, for a guest list that would top off at over fifteen hundred people—a significant amount of Molokai’s population.

June fourteenth was chosen after a great deal of discussion, choosing the correct date for the wedding was quite strategic, an ordeal as well.

see WEDDING p.5



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From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban
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The Crowning Moment of Graduation

Congratulations to all our 2018 Graduates! You deserve every moment of praise for making it on graduation day to receive your diploma and awards. Earning your graduation has never been an easy accomplishment. To the graduates, our hats off to you!

Behind the string of celebrations after graduation, thousands of dollars and hours have been poured into your education, creating a mix of memories, sacrifices, stumble-and-fall stories and swift triumphs, not only on the part of the new graduates but also on the collaboration of parents, teachers and school staff in shaping the graduates' minds and talents so they may become better actors in the community.

To the new graduates, you made your parents and the entire family shout with joy at the top of their voices when your name was called on to the stage, and as you received your diploma, you could see tears roll down their eyes, claiming the same accomplishment you earned.

Graduation though should not be the end itself; rather, it should be a transition for the graduates to discover their "best self" as they decide the paths to take—find a job, pursue a career, set up a business, or maybe, establish a family. Oftentimes, this decision-making process after graduation rests on readiness in terms of knowledge and skills, training, and of course, financial fitness. Ultimately, the most important thing is the will and courage to carry on and pursue your dreams!

For the high school graduates, many of them may opt to mix a job with further schooling as the best way to obtain a college degree. For those who can afford college, the path becomes more accessible than those who work and study at the same time. But as the saying goes, the path to success is always under construction.

For the college graduates this year, you have the best opportunity to find a job here at home or even on the mainland or to continue your career or profession to the Master or Doctoral level. The key to any of these options requires a strong choice to challenge your interests, talents and educational preparation. No matter what path you choose, studying or working prepares you as a better person in the future.

The adventure that lies ahead can be very daunting. But for the time being, let the whole family and circle of friends join the graduates in their joyful time, perhaps, from getting a select few of families and friends to a restaurant, to a get-together party at one's house, or to a grand party in a community center or a hotel. Just to have everybody feel the same way—happy for the success of the graduate.

The day after all the parties marks the time of a more serious answer to the question: "What do I want to do for the rest of my life?" For sure, there are a number of opportunities and career choices that may have piqued the interest of the graduates. This is the time to charter the next chapter of your life, to define your interests and goals so you can be the person you want to be. This may be the time to follow the path you began a few years ago, the one you made preparations for.

As new graduates, you are the heroes of your family and friends and the community. You can inspire the younger generations by showing that you have a goal to achieve; that is, to have a decent job or career in which you will enjoy making a difference in the lives of the people around you while serving them with enthusiasm and the right attitude. Become the best citizen that you can be for your country! Forward ho! ✨



My escort to the event—awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to World War II Filipino Veterans—who came in full Class A U.S. Marine regalia, was Major **Armenio Salaguinto** from Maui.

PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH AYSON

July 4th...

from p. 2

Day, and the events that led to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. For instance, at Maui's 2018 Memorial Day Ceremony, held at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery, the over-capacity audience shared the unveiling of the Vietnam Monument, a project that took several years to accomplish. And at last month's Barrio Fiesta, a segment of the Saturday programs included the Veterans Memorial Service.

Earlier in Honolulu, on May 6th, World War II Filipino Veterans were presented the Congressional Gold Medal by Major General Antonio M. Taguba, U.S. Army Retired, who personally gave a medal to each veteran or family member in attendance. The awardees waited for 75 years to receive their medals, following the many years of supportive work from the late U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, and more recently, the sponsors of the initial legislation

"Freedom is not free" is best understood by members of the U.S. Armed Forces, whose memories include fallen brothers and sisters, also those still healing from visible and invisible wounds..."

in both houses of Congress with the eventual passage of S 1555 and HR 2737 that led to the passage of the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015, signed as Public Law 144-265 by President Barack Obama on December 14, 2016.

Being part of this once-in-a-lifetime event gave me the privilege of watching the Veterans' faces which were full of pride and their families who smiled joyfully in this historic moment. Throughout the nearly three-hour ceremony, many tears streamed as the images emerged on three giant screens in the Hilton Hawaiian Coral Ballroom, the only venue that could accommodate the almost 1,000 guests, moved a week earlier from the Fil-Com Center with its lesser seating capacity. My escort, who came in full Class A U.S. Marine

regalia, was Major Armenio Salaguinto from Maui, now living in Kapolei on O'ahu. We were guests at the table of AARP, for which General Taguba previously served as President of the national organization. As one of a few formal military events in my experience, it was heartwarming to visit at the various tables of dignitaries, including President Obama's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng, whom I have known since she came to Maui to promote her brother's first presidential candidacy, and her husband Konrad Ng at the next table, as well as Governor Ige and former governors nearby, and many more high ranking military officers in their most resplendent uniforms.

It is Maui's Memorial Day event that provided the best context from which to think about July 4th as Independence Day. This year's theme was "Fallen Yet Not Forgotten" for which each speaker gave related, very personal perspectives. Even the Posting and Retiring of Colors by the Hawai'i Army National Guard was received with more profound meaning. A new perspective came from Carole Hickerson, a

transplant from California who joined us from O'ahu, to speak about "Memorial Day... Its Meaning to an MIA Wife." Her story describes the years of waiting to learn of the whereabouts of her husband, a soldier in Vietnam. In her words, "When you get a group of frustrated women together, you know something will happen!" She and other wives in the same predicament organized to demand information from Congress and the powers that be, with a happy ending for her efforts. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard spoke proudly of wearing her uniform as a Major in the Army National Guard, having served tours of duty in the Middle East. The most urgent message from her is that we never forget the service and ultimate sacrifice of the soldiers honored every year, and that we openly show gratitude for those



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Maj. **Armenio Salaguinto** stands with Major General **Antonio M. Taguba**, U.S. Army Retired for a photo op at the May 6th event. PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH AYSON

vy of many in the world who do not enjoy the basic freedoms that Americans exercise daily and mostly take for granted. The Founding Fathers created a government that protects the nation (national freedom), that offers fair representation before the law and equal participation in government (political freedom), while giving citizens personal liberty (individual freedom). It is commonly accepted by Americans that national and political freedoms cannot exist without individual freedom.

Given a historical context for July 4th will perhaps provide the highest and best reason to celebrate with our families and friends, and also give us pause, to remember with gratitude the people we have known who gave their lives for us to live free, or the soldiers of today who choose to sacrifice some of their youthful years to preserve those freedoms we enjoy daily. *

Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D., is a retired educator, having served in the State Department of Education for over forty years. She previously served as the Principal at 'Iao Intermediate School, the Vice Principal at Lihikai Elementary School and the Vice Principal at Maui High School, and she taught at Lihikai Elementary School, Blanche Pope School in Waimānalo, O'ahu, Frank Thompson Middle School in Boston, Massachusetts, and Stuart Elementary School in Boston, Massachusetts. She was graduated from Baldwin High School, Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois (majoring in Music Education and Elementary Education), and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (M.Ed.). She received her doctorate in psychology from Union University in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Pink bats in the belfry? No, these were the pork parts curing before their preparation into all kinds of delicious Filipino cuisine dishes for the upcoming wedding ceremony. PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

Wedding...

from p. 3

Many superstitions played into this decision. Naturally it was understood Mama would have the final word. A mix of the Chinese calendar as well as calculating pay day was crucial. It was understood that all the townspeople would be in a more comfortable position to *kōkua* if they were not between paychecks.

My family in California ordered formal wedding invitations on a beautiful white linen paper from the finest printer in Los Angeles. These were sent to the mainland guests, friends of my parents and people I had known since I was a small girl. I received a box of the invitations with the double envelopes as well. They were all so white and beautiful. I laid them out proudly for my husband to see. For a moment he looked perplexed and then asked innocently, "Why send? Everybody going come." And so they did, all fifteen hundred guests. Only my parents, my sister, and Nanny (my paternal grandmother) came from my side.

As the wedding day grew near, my mother arrived from Los Angeles, we were given a shopping list a mile long. On this ever-growing list was enough garlic, bay leaves and onions to sink a ship. An especially important item on the list was whiskey for the cooks; it had to be Seagram's 7. The preferred

drink was called a 'seven, seven' a mix of Seagram's and Seven-up; the mix was probably more whiskey than soda.

Parties are major events in the Filipino community. The centerpiece of every party was the food and the eating. When I sat down to eat, everyone would find a reason to pass by me and look at my plate to see how brave I was in trying his or her foods. As I ate, they smiled and laughed, cupping their hands over their mouths or revealing their many gold teeth. Their comment was always, "Ai yah, *ading* (Oh my, young one), you eat dat one? Ai yah!" Technically the ice was broken as they laughed and talked, saying, "No more da *Haole* eat dis kine, you one Filipina now." It was so simple; I was accepted because I ate their food. This was always the first step.

There was one secret I would keep past my wedding day. I was already two months pregnant with our first child; it was imperative that two people were kept ignorant of this fact. One was my Irish-Catholic father who was devout and very traditional. My father's Irish Catholic ethics still reined and ruled in our home. The other to be kept uninformed was the Belgian priest who would marry us.

Philip's family was elated about my pregnancy; babies were the complete epic-center of their life. I was sternly warned not to tell the priest. With

see WEDDING p.15



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Kwento Kuwentuhan



Summer is upon us and it is hot! hot! hot! These warm summer days makes me crave for the many delicious Filipino refreshments I loved while growing up in the Philippines. I thought this would be a good topic for us to talk about here at *Kwento-Kwentuhan*. Maybe this will inspire you to make some of these refreshments here on Maui or anywhere you are right now. Perfect for summer!

Thirst Quenchers and Refreshments Filipinos Love

Liza of “A Maui Blog”

What Filipino refreshment do you like that quenches your thirst or cools you off? Here are some of my favorites:

1. **Sago at Gulaman** – Basically this drink consists of Tapioca Pearls (that’s *sago*) and cubed gelatin (that’s *gulaman*) with icy water and brown syrup (called *arnibal*). Take note that *sago* pearls are the bigger tapioca pearls, not the tiny ones we see on some desserts here on Maui. The *sago* tastes better when boiled with brown sugar and

Sago’t Gulaman consists of Tapioca Pearls and cubed gelatin with icy water and brown syrup .
PHOTO COURTESY YELP



cooled off before mixing with the drink. The gelatin cubes are made with *agar-agar* (a form of seaweed) and not the jello we are familiar with here on Maui. The *arnibal* is a mixture of water, brown sugar and vanilla (and sometimes *pandan*). I like the plain *sago at gulaman* but others prefer the variety with condensed milk mixed in it.

2. **Buko Juice** – *Buko* (“boo-koh”) refers to a young, immature green coconut, and also to their meat. *Buko Juice* is usually a mixture of the coconut water, shredded coconut meat (or coconut flesh, whatever you prefer to call it), milk, iced water and natural flavor from *pandan* leaves. Oh, the smell of *pandan* makes it a memorable drink! The leftovers can be made into Ice Candy. Similar to *sago at gulaman*, the variety of this re-



Calamansi Juice is the Filipino version of lemonade and limeade.
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

freshment is when milk is added instead of just the plain juice and sugar water.

3. **Melon Juice** – We call it “melon” but to be specific, it really is cantaloupe that we are talking about here. Similar to *buko juice*, we use a “shredder” to gather the melon flesh. The shredder is a small scraper that has a wooden handle with stainless steel tips. One side (with small holes) produces nice fine long shreds while the loop end provides wider “shavings.” If the shredder tool is not available, you can use a fork to scrape the flesh and gather the juice. This melon juice is so refreshing and easy to make, I am surprised that it is not as common here on Maui with an abundance of cantaloupe especially during the summer.

4. **Calamansi Juice** – Here in America, and Maui, lemon juice is the common thirst quencher. However, in the Philippines, *calamansi* is more common than lemon, therefore we make *calamansi* juice more often. *Calamansi* Juice is the Filipino version of lemonade and limeade. *Calamansi* is known in America as calamondin, although here on Maui, we call them *calamansi* as well. As my mom says, *calamansi* is fully packed with Vitamin C which is good for strengthening the immune system, weight loss, fighting colds and flus, and even fighting infections—it’s good to drink *calamansi* juice regularly.

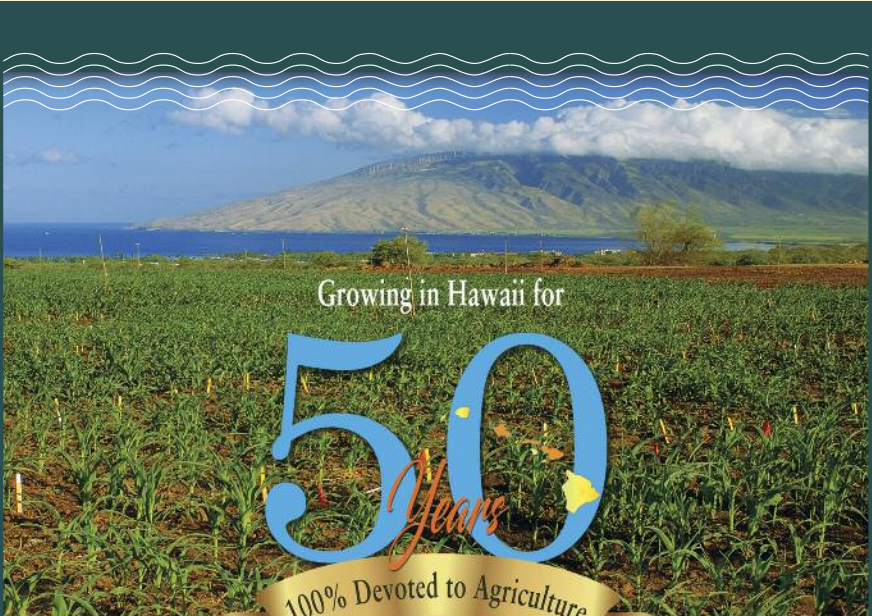
There are many more yummy and cool refreshments we can talk about but will stop here for now. If you are a Filipino reading this article, I am guessing that your mouth is watering and you would probably make one of these drinks after reading this. If you are non-Filipino and not familiar with the refreshments we discussed but would like to try them simply “google” each of the drinks I mentioned and you’d be surprised how many YouTube tutorials and Recipes on Blogs are available on these famous Filipino refreshments.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I am going to our kitchen to make myself a refreshing *calamansi* juice. Until next time, *cheers!* ✨



Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui.

Liza is currently the Interactive Media Strategist with Wailea Realty Corp.




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Josie Dumayas Baggao



The Baggao Family celebrated Silvestre's 90th birthday. Josephine & Silvestre are seated in front, while Jackie Hernandez, Myrna Breen and Elmer Baggao stand behind them.



Silvestre & Josephine Baggao on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Young ladies in the plantation camps in the 1940s and 1950s were very rare. However, in 1957, there was a very attractive young lady by the name of Josephine Dumayas who arrived on Maui from Tamurong, Kawayan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She was petitioned by her father, a 1927 *Sakada*, by the name of Mariano Dumayas. In fact, Mariano went back to the Philippines in 1935 and decided to stay there for good but in 1946, he changed his mind and decided to sign up again to come to Hawai'i as one of the 6,000 plus *Sakadas* who were recruited to come to Hawai'i to work in the pineapple and sugar plantations.

There was also a very handsome and charming young man by the name of Silvestre Baggao who came as a

1946 *Sakada*. He was born in Santa, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on July 5, 1927. He signed up to be a *Sakada* to find a better life in Hawai'i for life in the Philippines after World War II was very difficult. He worked for HC&S. Mariano Dumayas and Silvestre Baggao became best friends while working together at HC&S.

When Josephine arrived on Maui, Silvestre and Mariano went to pick her up at the airport. It was love at first sight for Silvestre when he saw the beautiful Josephine. He couldn't keep his eyes away from her. On the

other hand, Josephine claimed that she was not at all struck by Silvestre because she left a boyfriend back in the Philippines. In fact she told Silvestre about the boyfriend she left behind. She also honestly claimed that she was very disappointed of what she saw here on Maui. Her expectation of Hawai'i as Paradise was not quite what she pictured in her mind. She became very lonely and wanted to go back home to the Philippines.

Silvestre was a very persistent gentleman. He was also a smart man and knew how to win Josephine's heart.

So he visited her and comforted her quite often. Silvestre loved her so much that he proposed to her anyway. He told Josephine that she is already here in Hawai'i and that she must have been sent for him. Besides, Mariano Dumayas, Josephine's father really liked Silvestre as his son-in-law and he was taking Silvestre's side. Josephine grew to love Silvestre. In the test of time, that love between Silvestre and Josephine was so intense and so cemented that they recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

see OFFSPRING p.14

Josephine “Josie” Dumayas Baggao

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BAGGAO 'OHANA



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Diligence, discipline, and leadership are traits you acquire through intensive training either in your household, school or the military. These traits are commonly taught in many Filipino homes to train the younger generations to be more responsible and to help them face the real world as early as possible so they can adjust better in the society. Leadership is taught in schools to prepare students to speak in public and to gain better skills aside from core subjects.

A program at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School called Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) exists to guide students to become successful individuals and to become a

choices in the future.

Rose Beatrice Aco, a junior at Baldwin High School, excels in both the JROTC Program and as a student overall. Rose has been in the military program for three years and has been acknowledged by her superiors for her Academic excellence and Leadership skills over the past years. "This program helped me to multi-task, be punctual, and motivated me to strive for the best," Rose explained, stating her experience in the JROTC helped her shape who she is now.

When Rose came to Maui in December of 2014 from the Philippines, she went to Baldwin High School and adjusted well in the new environment.



Rose Beatrice Aco



Jacqueline Agorilla

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better citizen under the military learning environment. Their mission and vision are to motivate people to become a better student and a citizen where this program successfully produced many successful individuals over the past years. The program teaches the students the values of LDRSHIP or loyalty, duty, respect, selfless duty, honor, integrity, and personal courage which help them change their outlook in life and urge them to make better

program. She learned how to face her fears through rappelling from a high wall with only a rope to support her weight. Rose liked the rush of adrenaline it gave when she rappels from a high place and it became one of her favorite activities in JROTC. The program helped her to become physically fit through the extensive workout they do every week that requires strength, agility, endurance, and teamwork.

The military program also devel-

oped her leadership skills in which she formed a sense of responsibility to manage and guide the cadets well. She led her platoon to march and found effective ways to influence the cadets. Rose's dedication helped her to rank as a Training and Operation Officer and achieve awards such as Academic Excellence (Grade 9-11), Superior Junior Cadet (Grade 10), Academic Bowl Participant (Grade 9-10), and Outstanding Youth Award given by the Maui Filipino Community Council (Grade 11) for her outstanding leadership, academic performance, and service to her school and community.

Rose plans to pursue nursing so she can give care and help to the growing number of people needing help and also to help secure a comfortable life for her family. With a clear goal in mind, she worked hard to achieve it and took classes such as Clinical Health, Human Physiology, and advanced courses at University of Hawai'i Maui College. "Her ability to learn and teach other students is impressive as she is a model student in my class," Rose's chemistry teacher stated with a remark that she is a jovial person.

Jacqueline Agorilla is also a Junior at Baldwin High school and has

see GOOGLE p.14

"This program helped me to multi-task, be punctual, and motivated me to strive for the best..."

— ROSE BEATRICE ACO



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Senators Keith-Agaran, Jill Tokuda, Kalani English and Roz Baker and Representative Kyle Yamashita at the Maui County Ag Fest.
PHOTO: COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran and Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui on Tsutsui's last day in office.
PHOTO: COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Culturally, politics is a Filipino blood sport. Just as basketball is the national sport of the Philippines and every Filipina should win a beauty pageant at some point of her life, picking your *manók* in an election is a matter of pride and insight. So here's my take on what to think about this year and my picks for various offices.

But first, while there are people who claim they vote based on issues, many regular voters may not know exactly where a candidate lands on the ideological standpoint. In plantation days and from the early days of Statehood, party affiliation often substituted for specific information about a particular candidate—you voted for the Democrat if you supported expanded workers' rights, fairer public education, stronger environmental protection, and creating broader social services and public safety net. During Plantation days and until the last twenty years or so, most residents had some link to sugar or pineapple or other agriculture.

It's not as pure and simple today, if it ever was, where Maui has more limited economic engines, and an economy dominated by the Visitor Industry and some construction.

I consider what these candidates have contributed to Maui, both in office if they are incumbents, and to our way of life if they have not been in elected office. The old litmus tests have changed. You could consider in the old days what a person did in the Jaycees or at the County Fair as a measure of community involvement. Have they been active in Boy Scouts, or their church, or in a service organization (Rotary, Kiwanis or the Lions Clubs)? Do they coach their children

and their neighbor's kids in soccer or Little League or Menehune basketball or Pop Warner football? Have they been active in their children's or their neighborhood schools? What kind of

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

What is the relevancy of endorsements in our government's elections today?

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

business are they in and how does that business contribute to civic life? Have they been involved in other local issues that make life better for the entire community?

Involvement beyond the run up to an election in some of the above probably means a person is in touch with our community and indicates that they'll be committed to our community whether or not they are in elected office.

With the generational movement of Democrats into all facets of island society—including upper management in larger businesses and developers, affiliation with the party no longer is as clear cut a way of distinguishing between candidates. A lot of local Democrats with roots in the early days of Statehood likely remain very conscious about the need to provide and maintain jobs for longtime residents and their children who plan to live, play and raise families in these islands. Even labor unions often compromise with business and developers for the promise of continued employment opportunities for their members

and their children.

For most folks, all the people running for the various legislative seats can be mysteries. Normal working folks may only know what happens through what they read or see in the mainstream media (print newspapers, television) or an elected officials' newsletter or a candidate's walking piece. Small kid time, my grandfather and his gamecock breeding friends would talk story about candidates and issues over cold adult beverages in the backyard. Today, it's more what your "friends" post on social media (if you have time for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, Pinterest or some other platform).

So endorsements by groups or individuals remains one avenue for differentiating between candidates.

While unions like the ILWU were an important part of the coalition that overturned the oligarchy and Big Five Republican coalition that controlled Hawai'i during Territorial Days, the labor movement doesn't hold the same esteem as it once did during the heady days of the Democratic Revolution. And some people openly blame unions as part of the problem for Hawai'i's social-economic challenges, ignoring the debt owed to the battles fought by unions for workplace safety and labor benefits enjoyed statewide today. However, Maui candidates generally still welcome support from the larger unions, especially the public worker unions (HGEA, UPW and HSTA) for money and people. Private sector unions like the ILWU, the Carpenters and the various

trades (Operating Engineers, Laborers, Masons, Electricians, and Iron Workers) also provide endorsements and help with funding and sometimes grassroots help.

Candidates also work on getting support from people considered influential among particular groups—known leaders of community groups like churches, social or service clubs, chambers of commerce or non-profits, or even former elected officials.

Candidates still pursue these endorsements to get their name in the minds of voters affiliated with those unions or community groups. So it's interesting to see groups being formed

to simply make endorsements and to move out the folks they brand as the old boy network of elected officials. Many simply tout the shared vision of the slate being endorsed.

But perhaps the thing that gets left out from consideration is not what a candidate wants to do (or stop) but what they've contributed to the community in the past. I've come to see action, more than talking, as the better measure of how strongly a person

feels about making a difference. Growing up, the lawmakers I recall on the County Council and legislature came from various parts of our islands: educators, retired police or fire fighters, small business owners and managers, union business agents, former county and state administrators, news reporters, independent newspaper publishers, farmers, disc jockeys and former beauty contestants, and (rarely) the occasional lawyer.

see LEGISLATORS next page


"Candidates still pursue these endorsements to get their name in the minds of voters affiliated with those unions or community groups."

— GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

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Legislators...

from p. 19

I would argue that what someone has done in maintaining and improving the quality of life for residents should be a primary consideration for those asking for our votes.

Ultimately, choices will get made based on our shared concerns.

In high school, I remember one election where a local candidate was perceived as proposing an anti-Filipino cultural ordinance (even after people moved from the camps to Dream City, folks would still do some backyard slaughtering and cooking). My grandfather, who occasionally supplied butchered beef to folks in our Pā'ia neighborhood, or prepared fresh pork party dishes in his *silyases* (woks) when catering large parties, was pretty ticked off. When I went to help him vote that November, he said vote all the Democrats except the poor Councilmember blamed for the proposed law.

This upcoming election may further shift Maui (and Hawai'i) from whatever plantation era consensus we shared as an island people. As reflected from the narrow approval of a County-level Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) regulation a few years ago to talk about shifting Maui from direct management by elected officials to contracted "professional" managers, some people are looking for changes (the current Mayor-appointed Managing Director Keith Regan actually holds a certificate as a professional manager).

Supporters of the anti-GMO initiative have now shifted focus to electing



2015 Maui County Council
PHOTO COURTESY OF MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL

people who agree with their vision for Maui. They endorsed a slate of candidates for County and State office in 2016 and helped elect four of the nine members of the current Maui County Council. My own favorite slogan in recent elections successfully captures the general unrest. Part-Filipino Alike Atay's signs declared "Nuff Already."

'Nuff Already succinctly captures the frustration a lot of people feel about life on Maui and the need for a change in direction.

This year, with two Council members leaving to run for Mayor, and Council chair Mike White and Vice Chair Bob Carroll choosing not to run for re-election, the same groups have an opportunity to elect both a Mayor and a Council majority that agrees with their brand of change. They also support a number of legislative candidates.

Council members run every two years County-wide but with residency in particular areas of Maui Nui to insure smaller communities like Lāna'i, Molokai and Hāna have representation. Unlike Maui Council members, state legislators are elected only by voters who live in their districts and they run in Partisan Primaries (elections where voters choose a nominee for their particular political party).

Statewide, there are fifty-one State Representatives and twenty-five State Senators. Maui has nine Maui Council members and an elected Mayor. Maui has six State Representatives and three State Senators. State Representatives all run for re-election every two years. The Senators, with four-year terms of office, run in staggered elections—two are up this year—Senate Majority Leader J. Kalani English (East Maui-Molokai-Lāna'i) and Consumer Protection and Health Committee Chair Rosalyn Baker (South & West Maui). In the House, Rep. Kyle Yamashita, the lead Finance Committee person who decides on State investments in infrastructure (schools, UH Maui College, Maui Health System, Kahului Airport, Kahului Harbor and the State roadway system) faces a tough primary. With the departure of Speaker Joe Souki, appointed Rep. Troy Hashimoto will have to win his own term against former Councilmember Dain Kane, teacher and HSTA VP Justin Hughey and HGEA leader Mary Wagner. Two-term Kahului Rep. Justin Woodson will need to beat back a challenge from Kauanoe Batangan, a local graduate of Kamehameha Schools-Maui, Stanford University and Columbia University.

Consider one big issue that affects everyone who lives and works on Maui. Did these candidates actively support ensuring Maui's residents can continue to have acute care and medical services on island rather than having to fly to O'ahu or the mainland? A lot of residents (and local health care professionals) actively worked to support the changes which did not happen overnight. Community members (many who would likely be card carrying members of the so-called old

boy network) and Maui legislators like Roz Baker, J. Kalani English, Joe Souki and Kyle Yamashita worked hard to first extend more local control and management of the three public hospitals (Maui Memorial, Kula Hospital and Lāna'i Community Hospital) and then to privatize management of those facilities. Creating the opportunity for a better Maui Health System required pushing back against strong public union opposition and O'ahu indifference. Supporting that shift remains one of the main jobs for Maui's legislative delegation.

Even before the change at the hospital, Maui community members pushed for the creation of the Maui Arts and Cultural Center (MACC), a far-fetched vision when first proposed. Today, the MACC annually serves as a world class venue for concerts and as a stage for local performers. Over the years, the Center has expanded use to hosting high school band concerts and cultural festivals. The MACC was the vision of local real estate developer Pundy Yokouchi and has been supported over the years with additional State funding for additional facilities.

Another example would be the creation of the Maui Coastal Land Trust (now the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust). Out of public opposition to the proposed resort/golf course development of the old Waihe'e Dairy lands, Maui residents preserved those lands by pushing for the purchase of the area by the land trust using federal, state and county funds. Today, the land trust holds conservation easements throughout Maui Nui and the other islands, and actively works to restore natural and native habitat on those holdings.

Based on the criteria discussed above and looking at what I know about the candidates, here are my own endorsements for Governor, Lt. Governor, the legislature and the County Council. For Governor I like

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran has represented Central Maui in the legislature since 2009. He lives in Kahului



where he grew up. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and as Assistant Majority Whip. He previously served as Chair of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee and Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Before being appointed to the legislature, Mr. Keith-Agaran was active in his church, served on the School Community Councils at Maui Waena and Maui High School, and a member of the boards of various local non-profit organizations, including the Maui Coastal Lands Trust and the Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation. He previously served as an administrator in the Cayetano and the first Arakawa administrations.

Aloha and Mabuhay!

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A Wedding—A Marriage?

The Rev. John A.H. Tomoso †

I hear folk, often enough, speak of a wedding, when they mean a marriage and of a marriage when they mean a wedding. What is the difference between a wedding and a marriage? So, a *wedding* is a collective name used for all the ceremonies and rituals that take place to give social and civic acceptance and status to the relationship between two people. Such ceremony and ritual can be brief and simple or somewhat lengthy and complex. Of course, cultural, social and religious norms can dictate what and how such a ceremony and ritual is performed. A *marriage* is the name of a lifelong, social and cultural institution, which starts after a wedding is performed. Thus, there is a difference between these two words yet they are inexorably connected by tradition, custom and intention.

With a *wedding*, ritual and ceremony creates a legal, and sometimes a religious, bond between two people; two individuals, who bring to each other all that they are, physically, with personality and meaning to somehow change each other so as to be liked, to be loved even more. Before the wedding, there is an attraction, a relationship but no binding commitment between the two. After the wedding, breaking off their relationship, with binding commitment can be expensive, time-consuming, and complicated. I personally know several couples who have decided not to wed but who have made a commitment to each other and feel and live together as if they were married. Yet the tradition of marriage endures while new understandings of what it means are being forged by folk, by couples who are sincere in their love for one another and how to express such love.

By custom, a *marriage* is thought of as everything; social, cultural, economic, spiritual, emotional even political, that follows a wedding. I've always been fascinated with the traditional phrase within the marriage vows, "for better or for worse." This phrase has given rise to that bond, that binding commitment between the couple that defined or recognized in both civic and religious norms and expectations. This is where I believe folk start mixing up weddings for marriages, thinking that *both* can only be broken by divorce or death. The custom that marriage needs to start with or be accompanied by a wedding links both, inexorably, as "one for the other." It is the intention of the couple to "stay married" no matter what happens or takes place between them.

So, the intentions that usher in either wedding or a marriage can, sometimes, be thought of as the same for each. I think that what folk do is to then assign the same intentions for both. This is a mistake because I believe there is only an intention or intentions for marriage but *not* for a wedding. This is where, I think, folk start mixing up a wedding for a marriage and a marriage for a wedding. As an old, rather ageless institution, marriage has every human expectation of and intention for love. We all want to express this love, to each other, and to the world; that our intention is to formally and publicly express it by marriage.

Kababayan, a marriage is then, in its best and binding state, a social, cultural and legal entity with the intention of formally expressing love; love all around us that start with two individuals who want to share it for themselves and others. When you understand the difference between a marriage and a wedding, I believe you can then properly align intention with tradition and custom. In intending to be married, some couples have a traditional wedding and understand that there are customs that come with it. But love, sincerely expressed in a public manner, is not bound by only certain intentions, traditions or customs. I'm sure you've heard of the phrase "Love knows no bounds" which means that we have weddings and marriages to help us define love as we see and experience it in our lives. The next time you're invited to a wedding, to witness a couple's public and formal intention to love each other, know that it is about a marriage, an institution that we know and have defined and that we understand it, in love, for our own expressing of love. Each of us adds our own intention, satisfaction to this expression and then become inexorably connected to the couple. Perhaps then, a wedding becomes a marriage and both are seen as one in the same. Just know it's about love and let the couple figure it out for themselves!

Have an idea or a comment or even a question, contact me at this email address: atingkabuhayan@gmail.com Until next time, take care! ✨



retired from the civil service as the Maui County Executive on Aging. Tomoso is currently the Executive Director of the non-profit Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. His wife Susan is a 7th grade Language Arts Teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School.

Rev. John A. Hau'oli Tomoso † is a Social Worker and Episcopal Priest. He is a Priest Associate at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku and an on-call Chaplain at Maui Memorial Medical Center. Tomoso was graduated from St. Anthony Jr./Sr. High School, the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota (Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology) and Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Masters of Social Work). In 2008, he

Millennials and Retirement: the To-Do List

Elsa Agdinaoay-Segal

Retirement saving is not on most millennials' list of top priorities. That may be why many experts expect that millennials will not be able to retire until well into their 70s.

In fact, according to Gallup's 2014 Economy and Personal Finance poll, the top financial concerns of millennials are student loan debts, lagging wages, housing and living costs, bills and credit cards/debt and lack of employment.

Despite your current expenses, it is not too early to consider retirement planning. And there are some steps you can take to start saving right away.

Budget: A budget that prioritizes savings can help you take a closer look at your recurring and nonrecurring expenses each month to set aside a reasonable amount.

And the first step in prioritizing savings? Taking a look at retirement plans available to you.

Retirement Plan Types

401(k): Some retirement savings accounts offer good tax advantages and investment opportunities. In fact, many employers offer programs like 401(k)s that contribute to the plans on your behalf. This is a retirement plan that you can start investing into right away.

IRA: A traditional IRA is a tax-deferred retirement savings account. This means you only pay taxes when you take the money out at retirement. The advantage here is you do not need to pay taxes on any of the dividends, compound interest payments or capital gains you earned over the years until you withdraw your money. However, for both 401k's and IRA's any amount you withdraw before age 59 ½ will typically subject you to income taxes and a 10 percent penalty.

You may also have heard about Roth IRAs. The difference between the two is that traditional IRA contributions are state and federal income tax deductible for every year you contribute but you pay income taxes when you withdraw at retirement age. Roth IRAs are not tax-deductible but like traditional IRAs their growth is not taxed. Unlike traditional IRAs, however, your withdrawals at retirement age are not taxed.

Invest: In addition to retirement plans, you may want to invest for long-range goals like buying a house or other major asset. Remember, different investment vehicles come with different expenses and charges. That is

why you may want to look at investments like index funds and mutual funds or even annuities with low expense ratios across a wide range of asset classes for diversification.

Retirement Savings: How Much?

It depends on your goals, lifestyle, cost of living and various other factors.

15 percent: One rule of thumb is to save 15 percent per year.

8 times: Another rule is to save roughly 8 times the amount of your final salary. For instance, if your ending salary is \$75,000, you may want to save around \$600,000.

70 percent: A third common rule is to replace a minimum of 70 percent of your pre-retirement income, which is the average income for roughly the last ten years leading up to retirement. Seventy percent is an estimate but the point is that retirement can be expensive. So that number may be a good place to start in order to maintain your standard of living.

Retirement and Financial Priorities

Retirement saving is difficult when so many other financial issues might seem like they should have priority. Saving, let alone investing, may not seem

feasible as you try to make ends meet.

But not saving early for retirement may put you at risk of having to retire later than you want or under less-than-ideal circumstances. ✨

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Provided by **Elsa Agdinaoay-Segal**, registered representative of MassMutual



Pacific, courtesy of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). Lic. # 357268. Agdinaoay-Segal was graduated from

Hawai'i Pacific University where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resource Management. In 2009, she earned the Chartered Retirement Plans SpecialistSM designation (CRPS®). Agdinaoay-Segal has nine years of experience in the financial services industry. She is the mother of two children, Joshua and Lily, and married to Brandon Segal, a deputy prosecuting attorney with the County of Maui.

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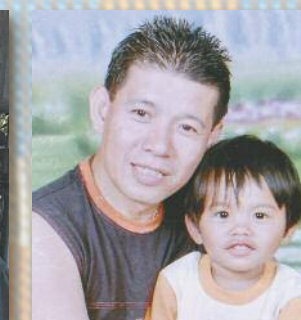
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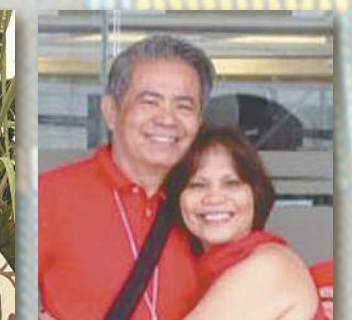
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Offspring...

from p. 7

niversary. Silvestre and Josephine were married on August 24, 1957 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Pu'unēnē with a reception of about 800 people at the Pu'unēnē Filipino Clubhouse. Their wedding was a typical camp wedding, with the wedding preparation of slaughtering six pigs and one cow which took three days. Filipino men are great cooks with their delicious *dinardaraan* (chocolate meat or meat cooked with blood also called *loco*), pork with peas, pork *guisantes*, tender pork bone with egg batter (*tempura* style), and delicious vegetable dishes. The women on the other hand cooked all of the varieties of desserts (sweets, *puto*, *kankanen* etc.)

The Baggao's are blessed with three children: Elmer the eldest is married to Lea Soberano. He graduated from the Honolulu Electronic Institute. He has his own business called See Lights, a sound engineering and stage lighting, and E. Studio Recording for CD's. Their second child is Myrna Breen,

married to David Breen. She graduated from University of Hawai'i Maui College with a degree in Hotel Management. She helps manage her husband's business, Breen Builder, LLC. Myrna was a 1978 Miss Barrio Fiesta queen, Mrs. Maui Filipina Centennial Queen in 2006, and a Gold Medal Winner ABA/INBA Grand Master's 50-59 Natural Olympia Fitness Competition. They have two children, Kimi and Daniel. The Baggao's third child is Jackie, married to Alan Hernandez. She graduated from the International Air Academy in Vancouver, Washington with a degree in Airline Operations. She also attended University of Hawai'i Maui College. She is employed at Ross in Las Vegas. They have four children, Hauoli, Maluike, Pariss, and Kylie.

Josephine worked and retired from the Royal Lahaina Hotel in the house-keeping department. It was always her dream to go traveling someday especially Paris, France. That dream came true to Josephine and Silvestre. They have taken several cruises to Europe, The Mediterranean, and Alaska. They

even traveled with the late Mayor Hannibal Tavares, Governor George Ariyoshi and Consul General Trinidad Alconcel to the Philippines.

Besides traveling, Josephine and Silvestre enjoyed ballroom dancing and Filipino Folk Dancing. They even participated in routine numbers with other ballroom dancers in Las Vegas, Honolulu, and here on Maui. They were very active in the Filipino Community. They were members and officers of the KFCA (Kahului Filipino Community Association), FCC (Filipino Catholic Club), and the USDIR (United Sons and Daughters of Ilocano Regions), and the Wailuku Senior and

ILWU Wailuku Pensioners Club. Josephine is also a member of the Christ The King Women Dance Group and in the Hospitality Ministry.

Josephine is petite in stature but she is the liveliest of all the lively women I know. At present, she is the sole care giver to Silvestre, her husband of 60 years who needs 24/7 care meaning he needs constant care. Even though she is a very busy woman, she

always manages to make herself presentable at all times.

Josephine and Silvestre are truly living up to their nuptial promises that they made sixty years ago: To love and to cherish each other, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, for as long as they both shall live. Their marriage is truly an epitome of a successful marriage. ✨

Lucy Peros is a retired school teacher, having taught for 32 years, 11 years at St. Anthony Grade School and 21 years at Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her parents, Elpidio and Alejandra Caba-lo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Her dad was a 1946 Sakada. Lucy is currently a Realtor Associate at Peros Realty, the business her late husband Sylvester Peros, Jr. started 30 years ago, where her daughter Lianne Peros-Busch is now the Broker. Lucy devotes a significant amount of time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church as well as babysitting her grandchildren.



Google...

from p. 8

been involved in the JROTC program for three years. Jacqueline joined the military program through an orientation that was presented back in middle school which made her curious as to what it was like to be a leader.

"The JROTC does not feel like you are in class. We get to practice commands and marching," Jacqueline explained. She is glad that they get to walk around and have fun during class and not sit down for hours. The program taught her to prioritize and manage her time wisely which helped her to become more efficient in her school work using her dream to be a nurse as

a drive to do well.

Jacqueline is an outstanding student especially in academics with a grade point average of 3.8-4.0. She was given many academic recognitions by the school as well as the JROTC such as Honor Roll (Grade 9-11), Academic Excellence (Grade 9-11), and a Treasurer of the National Honor Society. She showed dedication to learning new things and not putting fear ahead of her as well as maintaining a good relationship with her peers. "She absorbs a lot of the lessons by being observant and always focuses on the task" Mrs. Oshiro, a Chemistry teacher in Baldwin expressed her thoughts on how Jacqueline does in her class and explained how she leads other students well in class.

Jacqueline also showed her leadership skills through commanding a color guard during a ceremony and leading small groups. "I am a little shy but when I need to take control, I take over," Jacqueline admitted. She prefers leading smaller groups because she can get to know each individual and focus on how to guide them better. She manages her group with consideration and creates a connection to spark better teamwork. Jacqueline also uses teamwork in a lot of sports and physical activities such as cheer, basketball and track where she practices her communication and synergy among her team. This shows that Jacqueline is a well-rounded individual with the help of her Army instructors. Owing to the fact that Jacqueline is highly respected by her instructors, she was ranked as a Corporal in the Bear Battalion because of her advanced skills in leadership, responsibility, and camaraderie among Cadets.

Through the Junior ROTC program, scholarships are given to passionate

and exceptional students to help them with their future plans and career. Both Cadets are striving to get a military scholarship and other grants to pay for college and start a new chapter as an adult. Rose and Jacqueline are both excellent students that showed steady progress of learning and achievements with the counsel of their Army Instructor Sergeant Kahalekai and Army Instructor Simmerman that helped them become better versions of themselves. "I want them to continue what they are doing because I believe that whatever they do in life, they are going to be successful," Sgt. Kahalekai's message for Rose and Jacqueline in hopes of carrying, spreading, passing the military knowledge and skills to other people and


move citizens to aid and serve the community. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark.

This month's guest columnist is **Anastasha Aco**, a sophomore at Baldwin High School who maintains a 4.0 grade point average. She won the second place for the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival Pinoy Artist Contest. She holds many leadership positions at Baldwin High School such as Historian of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and will be Vice President of S.A.D.D. for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. Anastasha likes to draw, sing, learn new things and aspires to become an architect.




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The cooks preparing the food—plantation style.
 PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

Wedding...

from p. 15

wide cautious eyes my soon-to-be sisters in law admonished, “Be careful not to appear sick or pale, he will find out.” This advice made me stop and laugh because, as I saw it, with my fair Irish skin and freckles, I was always pale to them!

There was an infamous story about a woman from the camp who told the priest of her being with child before the ceremony and they were forced to be married on the church steps. In the eyes of the church she was considered tainted as well as contaminated and could not enter the holy ground. I was horrified! To think if my parents and my Nanny had come all this way, only to see me married on the church steps! I was committed to keeping this secret.

The preparations for the wedding seemed endless. I was not ready for the amount of ritual and superstition that preceded the sacred event. Mama set forth the first directive. In the next seven days before the wedding, Philip and I had to be separated, unable to see each other until we met at the church steps. All of these superstitions and precautions were to ensure we would have prosperity, health, many children and long happy years together.

To guarantee our paths would not cross, Philip was taken to stay at a hidden location at the opposite end of the island, while I remained in Mau-naloa. He was not allowed to drive a car (considered to be bad luck). I am not sure he really minded this custom because most of his time was spent with the other men hanging out, drinking, joking and gathering flowers and the special foliage that would be needed to decorate the wedding hall.

Somehow they were very careful about timing and managed to keep us on opposite ends of the island. This was amazing since there were only five-thousand people living on this island then.

As all love stories go, we managed to find each other once; it would be at his niece’s home near the harbor on the beach. For some reason in these seven days everyone was off and gone. I was uncharacteristically alone and then he was there; it seemed surreal, was this a dream? To this day, I

am not really sure that this actually occurred. We made wild passionate love in minutes and then a car drove up and he was gone. Then I was back and secure at the camp, with numerous dress fittings and predictable details.

At the time of the separation, the family met relatives and drove Philip everywhere. Each time he was taken to the airport a carload of family arrived from another island. This proved amazing since no invitations were sent to his family. They all just showed up. The coconut wireless was their means of communication and was now on high speed. Often a relative just walked off the plane at the airport and said to Phil, “I am your cousin from Lāna’i; we have never met. I am on your father’s side; I am here to help prepare for your party.” It was their custom and a responsibility to be there as family to support each other in this new land during both the sad times (a death) and happy times (a marriage or birth). In the end there were well over fifteen hundred people at the reception and the four from my side of the family.

During this period, there was the final selection of the pigs and cows for the party food. My father was in paradise as his lifetime hobby and passion was photography. He took pictures of every moment from our wedding down to the preparation of the pigs. As custom dictated, a pole was set in the pig’s mouth to hold the pig down and all four feet were bound as well. A sharp knife was then thrust into the heart. Immediately a cooking pot was placed under the punctured heart as it spewed blood. Pot after pot collected the liquid which moments before was the life force of the now squealing and kicking animal on the makeshift table. The blood was taken to the side to be mixed with vinegar and cooked into a dish known as *dinardaraan*. The vinegar helped to cook the blood. Some of the older men took cupfuls of the still warm liquid and drank the vinegary brew on the spot.

At this auspicious time, another practice was to drink from the bitters bag, the gall bladder of the animal. Obviously, this was a very cultural tradition. I never learned why all of this was done. What I saw in my father’s photographs was a great deal of bravado and camaraderie. The combi-

nation of the Filipino world and the Hawaiian nest where we flourished made this time ever sweeter.

Long-established traditions would herald that every detail and protocol was to be followed in the days to come. Philip’s sheer richly embroidered wedding shirt was called a *Barong Tagalog*. It was made of a traditional fabric known as *piña*; a smooth almost stiff fabric made from the pounded fibers of the pineapple plant. Rows and rows of white floral embroidery decorated the front panels of the ecru button-down shirt. All the male attendants wore the traditional embroidered shirts as well.

My wedding gown was a delicate white 100% Japanese silk with small

floral designs woven into the weave and texture of the fabric. The style was the traditional Filipino dress called *Terno*, with peaked, rounded sleeves. The style was probably from the 1800s with a strong colonial Spanish influence. Years before I had seen photos of the Marcos’ when they reigned in Manila. I remember Imelda’s dresses; all the glittering gowns in every color had the same stylized sleeve.

My four attendants were dressed in shades of green silk, all sea foam colors. Lace mantillas complimented the overall Spanish influence. They all wore white lace bolero tops; the pale green shades of the dress peeked

see WEDDING next page

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As the party ensues, the guests line up at the buffet table to fill their plates with dinner for the evening.

PHOTO COURTESY
SABADO 'OHANA



Wedding...

from p. 15

through the lace tops. Their dresses had the same peaked Filipino sleeves that kept with the tradition.

We chose to wear the traditional Filipino wedding attire in honor of Mama and Papa; this was not a hard decision, I was already enchanted with all that I'd seen. Why not go all the way? So many young couples in the camp had adopted Western ways. Later I realized we were perhaps one of the last couples in the family to be traditional; all who followed chose to be Western in their dress, with store-bought white lace and seed pearls. We were proud to keep up the traditions.

Selected women of the camp sewed my dress and the attendants' dresses and mens' shirts by hand. They all sat in a circle and sewed happily for months. There was no money involved; this was done for the sake of the celebration and out of respect and love for Philip and his family. Someone or many were silently behind the scenes making sure all was accomplished on time; it was like an army in the background moved silently to organize the food, clothing, and party details for over a thousand people. Lucky I was so young, I would have been clearly overwhelmed. Instead, I just happily followed along.

The other tradition that was mandated was to have Godparents, known as *Ninongs* and *Ninangs*. This was in addition to our bridesmaids and attendants that were a Western custom. The *Ninongs* and *Ninangs* are the sponsors for the bride and groom; it was an honor to be asked to be a Godparent. The bond and commitment to each other is life-long. In their language, as well as Spanish, these special people are forever known as *Compadre/Comadre*. All told, we had ten attendants on each side. The space at the altar was full and appeared crowded as we stood for photos. A snag occurred when the elder *Ninang* was chosen to stand by my side. My sister threw a fit and pulled rank and insisted she be by my side. This created an impasse until Phil's brother vol-

unteered to take the same position, standing next to his brother on the opposite side. When it came to these cultural precepts there was not much flexibility. This slighting was the talk of the island and intriguing, as it was a collision of western and Island traditions.

On this auspicious day the cooks began at four in the morning, prepping and cooking all the 'cut meat' in a large *silyase* (large black woks) that were placed over open wooden fires of *kiawe* wood, a mesquite, which grew profusely in the area. All the cooks were jovial older men, who were without a care in the world. There were many younger men who were willing assistants, as apprentices. The young men cut the meat and observed the masters. Breaks were taken every hour for a shot of the favored seven-seven. By the time the food was served they were all a jolly group. There was no need to pay these exceptional cooks; the camaraderie of the cooks and the joy of booze, family and the community was enough. Their mood and their jovial happiness made for an even better time; I cannot understate that they lived for these moments, these special times and parties are the grist to their lives.

On the wedding day Philip returned to the camp early; I suspected he had been at a sister's house. As tradition dictated, he was to remain hidden from me till the moment we would meet in the church, ready to walk down the aisle. Everyone was frantic on this day and yet there was one last task to be completed but it was bad luck for him to do any labor on the wedding day. On the opposite end of the camp, he ran from house to house searching for an iron and someone to press his white wedding trousers. With a melodic whine he would plead: "Excuse me, *Nana*, could you press my pants? My sister was cooking for the party... and forgot." There would be no takers, "Aye ya, so sorry boy, I no more ir-ron, see you at the party." He then ran to the next house to hear the same thing. Finally, by the fourth or fifth house, he found an iron and someone to do the chore.

see WEDDING p.18



Fil-Am Voice

Distribution Locations

Kahului

- A&E Laundry
- Badua's Maui Crepes & Grill · QKC
- Bistro Manila
- Christ the King Church
- Clinical Laboratory
- County of Maui - DMV
- Cupie's
- Da Shrimp Hale
- Foodland-Kahului
- Hairways
- Hale Makua - Kahului
- Island Grocery Depot
- Kahului Laundromat
- Krispy Kreme
- LBC Remit Express
- Maui Adult Day Care Center
- Maui Beach Hotel
- Maui Coffee Roasters
- Maui Federal Credit Union
- Maui Green Market
- Maui Style Market
- Maui Wow-Wee Maui's Kava Bar & Grill
- North Shore Pizza
- Pacific Fish Market
- Paradise Supermart
- Paradise Video
- Plantation Grindz
- RM Mini Mart
- Rowena's Produce
- Safeway - Kahului
- Starbucks - Ka'ahumanu
- Sunrise Food Mart
- Tamura's
- Tante's Island Cuisine
- University of Hawai'i Maui College
- Vidad's

Kihei

- Elly's Formal
- Foodland - Kihei
- Minit Stop - Pi'ilani Village
- Monsanto
- Phil-Mart Oriental
- Safeway - Kihei
- Starbuck's Pi'ilani Village
- Tamura's
- Times Supermarket
- Tropical Marketplace

Upcountry

- Farmacy Health Bar
- Kamoda's Bakery
- Majestic Laundry
- Makawao Fire Station
- Makawao Public Library
- Mixed Plate
- Pukalani Superette
- Starbucks - Pukalani

Wailuku

- Blazing Steaks
- CAA Market Place
- CAA Mini Mart
- Copy Services
- County of Maui
- Discount Mini Mart
- Foodland - Kehalani
- Four Sisters Bakery
- Golden Coin
- Good Shepherd Church
- Hale Makua - Wailuku
- Home Maid Bakery
- ILWU
- J. Walter Cameron Center
- JMA Imports
- Kaiser-Maui Lani
- Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista

Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center

- Maui Coffee Attic
- Maui Economic Opportunity
- Maui Medical
- Maui Memorial Hospital
- Minit Stop - Main Street
- Noble Travel
- Playmakers Sports Bar
- Promenade
- Rosie's Lunch to You
- Sabado Art Studio
- Sack N Save
- Safeway - Maui Lani
- Starbuck's Kehalani
- Tamura's
- Tasty Crust
- Tiffany's Bar & Grill

Westside

- EC Food & General Merchandise
- Foodland - Lahaina
- Ilocandia Filipino Store
- Java Jazz - Honokōwai
- Joey's Kitchen - Kā'anapali
- Joey's Kitchen - Nāpili
- Nagasako Variety Store
- Nāpili Market
- RVN Deli Kitchen
- Safeway - Lahaina
- Starbuck's - Lahaina Cannery Mall
- Times Supermarket - Kā'anapali



Philip and Christine Sabado, the happily newlywed couple stand before the witnesses as man and wife..

PHOTO COURTESY
SABADO 'OHANA



Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

Congratulations to the Class of 2018! Way to go graduates! Now that graduation is over, let the party begin! It’s party time because summer is here. I hope you are going to do something fun during the summer. I like to do island-hopping and get away from home and work for a bit. In Ilokano we call this *agbal-log*. In the Philippines, it is common for people to travel from the city to the province. It is tradition for people to go and relax in the province where it is away from pollution. Here’s our new words for the month:

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Ibanag	Kapampangan	Cebuano	Ilonggo
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Feet	Paa	Saka	Takki	Bitis	Tiil	Tiil
Arms	Braso	Takyag	Lima	Gamat	Kamot	Braso
Nothing	Wala	Awan	Awan	Ala	Yamo	Wala
Today	Ngayon	Ita nga Aldaw	Sangaw	Ngeni	Karun	Subong
Water	Tubig	Danum	Danum	Danum	Tubig / Pamubo	Tubig
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta	Salapi	Kwarta
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Work	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
To watch	Manood	Agbuya	Girawannu	Manalbe	Tan-aw	Tan-aw
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Lima	Gamat	Kamot / Duhol	Kamut
Head	Ulo	Ulo	Ulu	Buntut	Ulo	Ulo



ANGEL DIALS A PHONE NUMBER, raises the phone towards her ear, stands up and scans the room for the nearest exit. She spots one located next to the west side of the bar and quickly walks through it.

Michael *tan-aw* as Angel leaves, all while thoughts race through his *ulo*.

“Do something.”

“Please do something Mikey, this always happens to you.”

“Ever since grade school, you never spoke up. The school bullies always took your *kwarta*, and you never said a darn thing.”

“Your boss abuses you at work and you take it. You’ve become the laughing ‘oo man’ in the company.”

“Even last night you helplessly waited 90 minutes for your cold food to arrive at your table. You still paid full price...”

“Come on, Michael move your *gamat*! Michael, please get up now, move your *tiil*!”

“*Ngayon*, is the day we break free, go after her!”

In that moment, Michael shot-gunned his drink. He stood up while breathing heavily. He began to walk out of the bar. Michael bursted out of the front door like a super hero. He looked to his left, nothing. Panned to his right, and saw a taxi pulling away. His *puso* pumping, and he decided to go for it. Uncharacteristically, he start-

ed to run after the taxi. He ran and ran even faster. He finally caught up to the vehicle, and here is when it happened. He fell. Not only did he fall, he fell in the *danum*. Not only falling into the *tubig*, he fell into the muddy, stinky *pamubo*.

Tumbling, to his epic fail, Michael finally stopped tumbling and landed with his *mukha* halfway under the *danum*. As he looked up, he saw the taxi making a right turn, and disappear out of sight and out of his life.

“*Hindi!*, dammit,” as he planted his *rupa* further into the asphalt.

Thinking, “What the heck just happened?”

Michael slowly gets up, his white

shirt now a milky brown, his brand new slacks soaking through to his briefs, and his hair dripping of slimy grass and *tubig*.

“Oh, and great, I have a cut on my *kamay*, too! What else could go wrong,” he says.

Standing in the street, he could feel his *korason* start to pump wildly, and this time changing from disappointment to anger.

“*Indi*, I can’t believe this.” As he kicks the *danum* beneath him.

“The moment I try and take a risk, this is what happens?”

“I am so stupid!”

Raging blood flowing through his

see TALK next page



Talk...

from p. 17

veins, his *ulu* pounding from adrenaline. Michael belts out, yelling at the top of his lungs towards the area where the taxi had disappeared a minute ago.

Michael: “Angel!”

A faint giggle and a voice towards his right shoulder shockingly sounds in the background.

Woman: “Michael. *Anong ginagawa mo?* (What are you doing?)”

Horror pierces through his *puso*.

“OMG,” Michael gasps.

He slowly turns around and oo, it’s Angel running to him with a horrified concerned look, and a lady laughing behind her.

Hope you’re enjoying the story! What a situation Michael is in, don’t you think? Post your embarrassing story on our facebook page (www.facebook.com/letstalkpinoy). Were you able to figure out some of the words on your own, or did you have to look it up in the table? Either way, you are learning Filipino, and I am proud of that.

Try out this phrase with the words we gave you earlier. *Anong ginagawa mo?* “What are you doing?”

Well, that’s about all I have for you. Your homework is to say *Anong ginagawa mo*, 20 times this week. I’m Dulce helping you to master your Filipino languages, and like always, let’s laugh, let’s listen, and Let’s Talk Pinoy! See you again next time! *In-gat!* (Take care!). ✨

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College and her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai’i - West O’ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She recently became part of the Travel Club of Saladmaster and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancun, Mexico with the love of her life. Butay recently returned from a trip to Texas as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a dealer of Saladmaster here on Maui.



Family and friends referred to the musicians as the “Rondalla,” who played behind the Maunaloa Serenaders Orchestra music stands.

PHOTO COURTESY
SABADO 'OHANA

Wedding...

from p. 16

On this auspicious day, I walked down the same red dirt road that Philip and Mama had trodden as a boy. I wobbled on my white satin heels as my perfect white silk train trailed in the red Molokai dirt. On my head was placed a white Spanish comb, fixed into my *chignon*, the cluster of pearls and small diamonds sparkled in the sun. For the veil that swept to the ground, I chose the sheerest lace with a small scalloped design on the border. Years later both my daughters would wear the same veil on their special days.

In my hands were twenty strands of *pikake* (jasmine) blossoms mixed with sweet vanilla white *honohono* orchids, the most fragrant flowers in the world. The flowers were also strung in lei chains as long as my dress.

Only fifty or sixty guests attended the ceremony at St. Vincent’s church; everyone else was at the hall. My family, being Irish-Catholics, requested a High Mass. I am sure our other guests wondered why we tarried so long at the wedding since everyone else, including Philip’s parents, were waiting at the hall for the party to begin.

As I entered the church, I saw a white meat-packing paper laid down the aisle from the door to the altar. As I walked down the aisle, the red dirt made tracks and the tips of my heels made small holes in the paper. The wind swept through the small wooden building in a funnel and picked up the edge of the paper. Suddenly the white butcher paper was whipped into the air, making a crackling noise as it flew over our heads. I turned completely around for a brief moment to see what was making all the commotion; I was aghast, no one else seemed to notice. An entire sheet of white butcher paper, the length of the church aisle literally flew and rippled onto the ceiling. Apparently, these things were normal in the camp and everyone smiled when they saw my face as I watched the butcher paper crackle and buckle, scraping the ceiling of the small, white wooden church.

The priest was a kind man but he had the annoying habit of forgetting my name during the ceremony. He recited the vows, “Do you... uh... what is your name again?... take this

man...” After the third time he forgot my name, I was annoyed. Every time, he hit the blank, I filled it in with a stern whisper: “My name’s Christine.” He was nervous and did not hear me. The organist at the opposite end of the church only knew the first bars of *Here Comes the Bride* and played it twenty times in a row. It was like a comedy that only I was seeing, how could I break out in the giggles as I stood at the altar? In truth, it was charming and the pictures show how we were beaming.

Once our vows were exchanged, Philip and I shared a kiss and then turned to face the open doors that revealed the miles of rolling pineapple fields with Molokai’s grandeur before us. Someone was kind enough to catch the naughty white butcher paper that had run amok and held it in place for us as we walked down the aisle. Outside the church my mother was wiping her tears of happiness as we began the walk to the hall. Just as I began to wonder where everyone was, I saw a sea of people before me. They all stood at the ready, to greet the bride and groom as we passed. It was like a parade, where all the people line the road as we walked from the church on the hill. Fifteen hundred people stood on the road waiting for us to arrive so the party could begin. The women cried, waving and wiping their tears and the children beamed, jumping with joy. I recognized some of the women who had sewn my dress. They tugged at my sleeve as I passed them. One last adjustment! I had never seen so many people in my life; neither, I am sure, had my family. Among the crowd were Philip’s school chums and his aunts, uncles and cousins having many different nationalities; they all smiled, jumped and clapped as we passed. Before we reached the hall, which was really an extension of the camp post office, we were met by an overwhelming fragrance of fresh, just-picked flowers and *maile*, a green vine that is picked traditionally with long sharp fingernails to carefully snap the vine, releasing the potent aroma. The sweet-smelling *maile* whose slender green leaves and long thin stems are looped and twisted in a careful fashion, now adorned every corner of the hall.

My spouse’s family and town mates had charmed the plantation room and

see WEDDING p.20



ARIS BANAAG GINTONG PAMANA AWARDS 2018

Congratulations Aris!

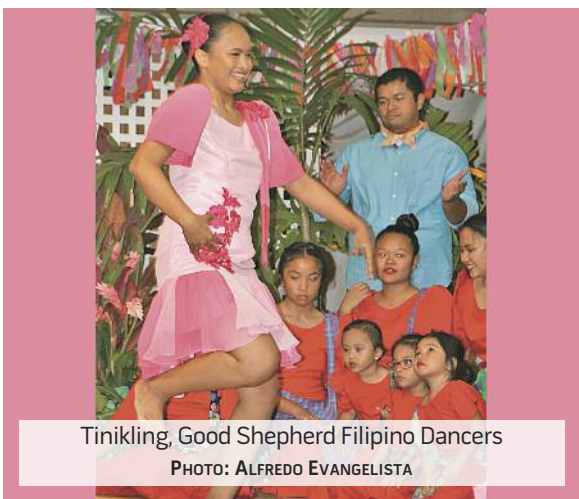
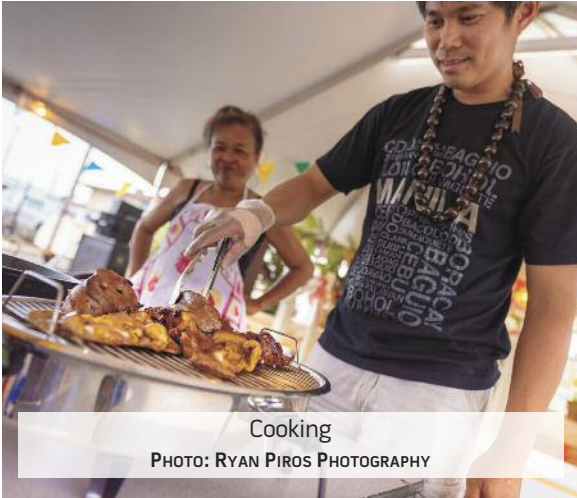


BANAAG-ZALSOS

TEAM MAUI



This month’s community photos highlight the 49th Annual Barrio Fiesta, May 25–26 at the Binhi At Ani Maui Filipino Community Center



Wedding...

from p. 18

transformed the red dirt-stained walls into a floral palace for the reception. The hall was completely decorated with strung flowers and *maile*, all gathered from the Molokai forests. The flowers which Phil had gathered for days from the mountains were also twisted into the *maile*. Someone from the camp had woven a large roll of flowers that took two hands to hold. They held special flower *lei* of a unique weave made from the rare purple *Maunaloa* flowers, which are only found in this area of the mountain. The wedding party and immediate family members each received these special lavender-and-white *lei* to wear during the party.

It was the custom at that time for the groom's family to pay for the wedding and the party. One of Philip's sisters gave us 200 pounds of rice. The pigs and cows were gifts as well. My Mum provided all the whiskey for the cooks. Philip's brother Eugene bought our wedding cake from Kanemitsu Bakery in Kaunakakai. Before the wedding there was so much fussing and whispering about the cake and my curiosity was aroused. When I pressed the point, I discovered everyone was concerned about the condition of the cake when it reached the camp. The biggest worry was it might not survive the distance from the island town to the mountain village intact. Because the roads were bumpy,



Philip and Christine relax behind their wedding cake at the head table during their wedding reception. Over a thousand people were in attendance.

PHOTO COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA

this was a valid concern; more often than not a cake arrived in Maunaloa broken, or worse, with flies stuck in the frosting. Fortunately, our cake arrived in one piece and... without flies.

I bought the cake top decoration in Honolulu at a Portuguese bakery. As I looked at the top shelf above all the cold glass displays of cakes and pastries, I considered the many styles of cake decorations, almost all had the

lace trim that would quickly yellow in time. Finally, I chose a couple, arm in arm, under a heart-shaped arch. The problem was they were both blonde with the pinkest plastic skin. I took felt tip pens and colored the groom's hair black and tinted his pink face to bronze. (I guess I was a pioneer in interracial wedding cake tops!) It suited me and everyone wondered if I had it special ordered. My answer was a smug smile and a silent thank you to Mom, for all those art classes on Saturday mornings.

My mother still tells a story about how we ran out of paper plates during the party. (She had bought 1,000 paper plates.) All the plates were used and midway through the party the shopkeeper opened the store especially for her so she could buy an additional 500 plates. In the pictures many of the guests seem to be carrying a small cooking pot from their own kitchens to take home to feast on leftovers.

In one corner of the room, a shot table was set up. Money was placed in a freshly oiled koa bowl in exchange for a shot of whiskey. This was a busy table, with a long line. An ensemble of old men with their instruments provided the orchestra music. Even their name was romantic and melodic, they were known to all as a *Rondalla* band. The origins of this instrument stem from the minstrel days of renaissance Spain; this was more commonly known as a mandolin.

My brother-in-law Eugene was the closest in age to Philip and a profes-

sional dancer. He was a star performer of the same Pearl of the Orient Dance Troupe that Phil had been a member of. The very same dance troupe I'd seen all those years ago when I sat in the front row as a teenager. Eugene brought some fellow dancers to Molokai from Honolulu as they danced in the traditional Filipino attire in perfect harmony. I couldn't have been more grateful of their contribution to our wedding day. Together Philip and Eugene taught me some of the traditional dances. Philip was already seasoned and I was a work in progress that never felt in sync; they would laugh heartily at all my attempts to work my two left feet. I am convinced I am a terrible dancer and it took courage and enormous effort for me to do the dances at all. When I showed Eugene and Philip I could dance an Irish jig, they looked at each other, confused. "If you can dance like that," they asked, "why is this so hard?"

Eugene and my former housemate Diane performed a romantic *Maria Clara* dance from the Spanish era. The flirtatious dance took them about the room; it was as if he was chasing her as he twisted and turned while she pretended to flee. Diane dipped her chin coyly at the conclusion, the dancers ending together. It was an enchanting performance and the guests were enthralled, especially my family. Mama beamed like a proud bird that strut her finest feathers. In this case the feathers were her family and the culture that had formed them. The dancers twirled past her in a blur of color and light that seemed to intensify with each flurry of the *Rondalla* chords. I am sure many of the villagers had not seen anything like this since leaving their homeland as children and teenagers, so many had beaming smiles and tears in their eyes.

The Money Dance was eagerly awaited because it gave the guests a chance to bless the new couple and wish them good fortune. During the dance, giggling women and men placed coins as well as paper money in my mouth, everyone now a little tipsy. Children eagerly waited to be a part of the ritual as well. They would beg the parents for coins so that they could partake in the gaiety. Philip's task was to take the money from me with a kiss. His hands had to remain behind him the entire time, as were mine behind me. We both leaned into each other as the music and gaiety intensified. There were hoots and hollers at each feigned kiss.

As we turned, came together, and drew apart in the dance, Philip snatched the coins and bills from my

see WEDDING p.22

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20 | Fil-Am Voice | June 2018 | Vol 2 • No 6

Love, Scandal etc. by Ate Nora

Fourth in a series

Editor’s Note: This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, places, events, locales, and incidents are either the products of the author’s imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

In the Philippines, when a single woman gets pregnant, she is often married off in a shot-gun wedding. Unlike the United States, abortions in the Philippines are illegal.

For Maria, neither option was on the table for her. Maria knew that Francisco knew that. Nor would Maria even think of marrying someone else who could appear to be the father of her child.

But Francisco was dumbfounded with Maria’s fear that she was pregnant. He knew his father could not have impregnated Maria. Francisco questioned Maria, “Have you been with anyone else, Maria?”

Maria was shocked at Francisco’s question. “What kind of person do you think I am?” Infuriated, Maria stormed out of Francisco’s apartment, leaving Francisco profusely apologizing for his statement. But Maria would not hear any of it, and with her tears streaming down her face, she ran past Tino, the guard, and returned to pray silently at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

The text from Junior interrupted her prayers and Maria deleted it without even reading it. Maria knew she had to return soon but she first had to compose herself and try to explain to Junior where she was. And Maria was not in the mood for any love making. Another text came in... this time from Francisco and Maria also deleted Francisco’s text without reading it and blocked him on her phone. Maria could not understand why Francisco would think she had been with someone else. “They’re all the same,” Maria thought. “Just because they have money, they have no respect for women.”

But Maria’s lack of money meant she really had no options if she wanted to finish at De La Salle. She vowed that once she finished, she would move away... and in the meantime, she really had no choice... and there was no Prince Charming in sight to rescue her.

Maria continued to pray to the Blessed Mary, asking for courage and strength. After praying, Maria felt calmer, and decided she needed to make a few more stops before going back to Junior. As Maria exited St. Mary’s Cathedral, she saw the Mercury Drug Store, and decided to go find something that would help her feel better.

In the Mercury Drug Store, Maria went to the over the counter medical section, hoping to find something that would make her feel better. She couldn’t decide whether to get some Dramamine, some Tylenol, some cough syrup. She walked up and down the aisles, looking for a cure-all. Then she saw the sign, advertising a pregnancy test from Clear Blue. Although Maria was in nursing school, she was quite naive about such matters. She read the box and learned it was easy to administer so she quickly looked around, saw no one familiar in the Drug Store, and proceeded to the cash register that was manned by a young girl. To Maria’s relief, the cashier was quick and Maria was able to leave Mercury without anyone else seeing her.

As Maria exited Mercury Drug, she smelled the aroma of *pan de sal*. Maria saw Tito’s Bakery, famous for their *pan de sal*. Maria knew Junior loved his *pan de sal* so she decided to get some to placate Junior. After buying a bag of *pan de sal*, Maria knew she had to hurry back to Junior’s apartment.

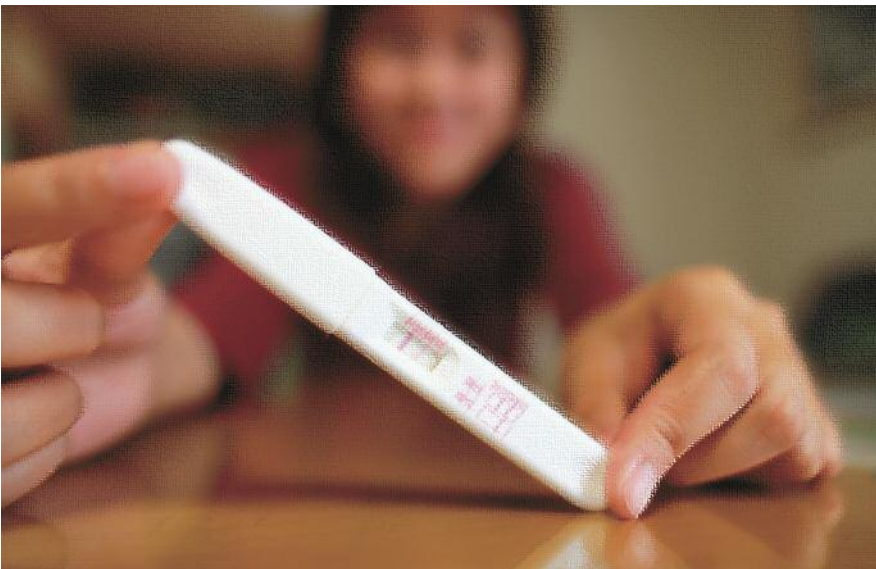
But it was not meant to be.

Her phone was buzzing with texts from the hospital, requesting all personnel to report. Usually such texts were sent when there was a calamity of sorts. And students were the last to be called in but Maria knew that many nurses were away at the International Convention in Cebu. So nursing students were also on-call and Maria knew that she had to rush to the De La Salle Hospital.

Upon her arrival at the Hospital, the charge nurse, Clarita, told Maria the situation. There had been a gas leak at one of the luxury apartment buildings in Mandaluyong on Shaw Boulevard. Clarita said that more than fifty folks had been admitted within the past half hour and more were expected but it was taking a long time for the firemen to rescue all of them because the elevators were automatically disabled.

Clarita instructed Maria that her job would be to go to each patient and assess their situation. Maria was raring to go and knew that this would be another way for her to prove to Clarita and the rest of the medical staff that she deserved to be at De La Salle; she had heard some comments that she was someone’s special project/friend.

Maria began her assignment and went into the first ER room, station A1. The patient, a man in his thirties, was stable, with oxygen flowing. His vitals were normal. Maria continued her visits and each patient was stable.



To Maria’s relief, the cashier was quick and Maria was able to leave Mercury without anyone else seeing her.

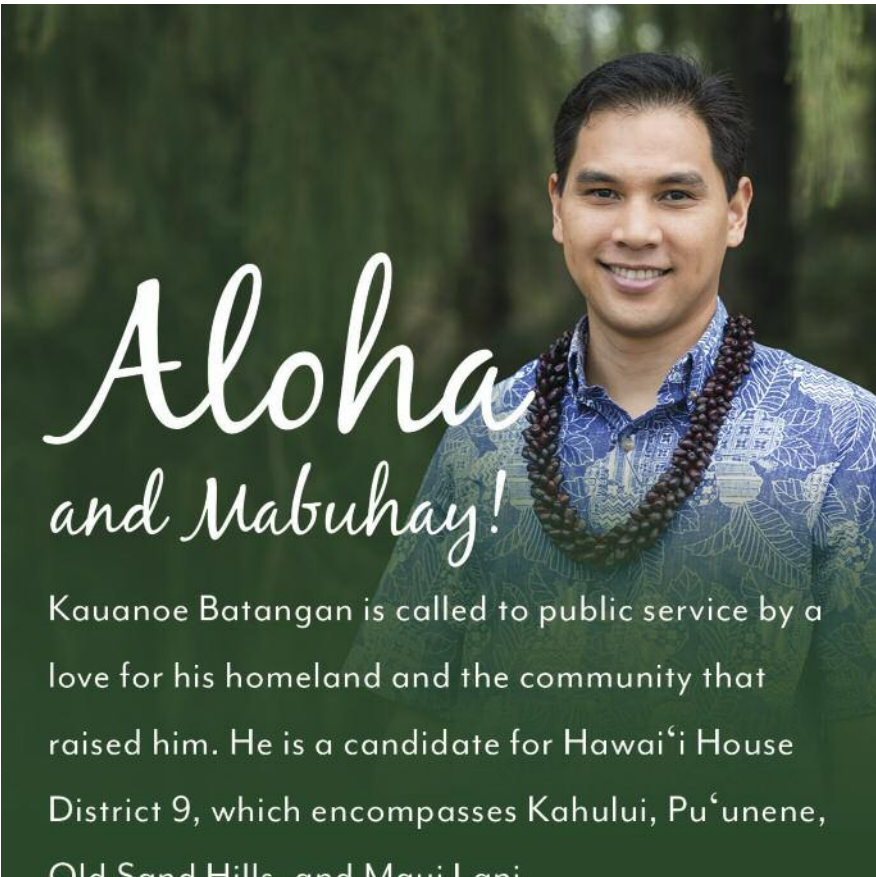
A half hour later, Maria was feeling a little dizzy and decided to take a break to get some water.

Just as soon as Maria finished drinking her water, the doors swung wide open, with medical personnel, racing with a body on a gurney. Clarita met them and instructed them to go to station B3. The hospital paging system announced a Code Blue-Special, which meant that someone of impor-

tance—politically or financially, was in cardiac arrest. Clarita saw Maria and instructed her to follow the gurney into B3.

This was Maria’s first experience in such an emergency and she was excited to be part of the team, even though she was still a student.

Her excitement, however, quickly turned to despair when she learned who the patient was—Junior. ✨



Aloha and Mabuhay!

Kauanoe Batangan is called to public service by a love for his homeland and the community that raised him. He is a candidate for Hawai‘i House District 9, which encompasses Kahului, Pu‘unene, Old Sand Hills, and Maui Lani.

Kauanoe Batangan

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What's Happening On Maui

Calendar Fil-Am Voice 2018

Please submit your community event by the seventh day of each month via email to info@filamvoicemaui.com

June

11 KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY (State Holiday).

13 GINTONG PAMANA LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS sponsored by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. For more information or sponsorship opportunities contact Elsa Agdinaoy-Segal at 276-6946.

17 FATHER'S DAY

30 59TH MISS MAUI FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT sponsored by the Maui Filipino Community Council at Wailea Marriott. Contact Maui Filipino Community Council President, Marilyn Oura at 280-2057 or Event chairpersons Michelle Santos at 264-0871 and Dolores Perreira at 283-1605.

July

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Federal and State Holiday).

7-15 2018 AMBASSADOR'S TOUR: MANILA-CEBU-BOHOL For more information contact Teresita Noble at 244-4609.

12 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

19-23 WORLD ESCRIMA KALI ARNIS FEDERATION (WEKAF) CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT at Lahaina Civic Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsorships available. Contact Madelyne Pascua at 268-0686.

30 EARLY WALK-IN VOTING at Velma McWayne Santos Community Center in Wailuku opens. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the Office of the County Clerk at 270-7748 or visit mauicounty.gov/1965/Elections-Division.

August

9 EARLY WALK-IN VOTING ENDS

11 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

17 STATEHOOD DAY (State Holiday).

September

3 LABOR DAY (Federal and State Holiday).

October

9 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION

20 MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL presented by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Queen Ka'ahumanu Center. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Event Chairperson Melen Agcolicol at 205-7981.

23 EARLY WALK-IN VOTING at Velma McWayne Santos Community Center in Wailuku opens. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the Office of the County Clerk at 270-7748 or visit mauicounty.gov/1965/Elections-Division.

November

3 EARLY WALK-IN VOTING ENDS

6 GENERAL ELECTION DAY (State Holiday).

12 VETERANS DAY (Federal and State Holiday).

22 THANKSGIVING DAY (Federal and State Holiday).

December

25 CHRISTMAS DAY (Federal and State Holiday).


29 ANNUAL RIZAL DAY CELEBRATION sponsored by Maui Filipino Community Council. Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Contact Maui Filipino Community Council President, Marilyn Oura 280-2057.



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Wedding...

from p. 20

mouth with his teeth and then let them drop to the wooden floor. The light caught on the coins and sparkles of silver and gold flew in the room, making a ringing, jangling noise. (The dance came from the days of the Spaniards, so gold coins were a part of the custom.) As the spirit of this dance caught on, everyone jumped up enthusiastically with money in hand to give the new couple. At one point a line formed as people waited for us to dance into the corners of the hall. These days the custom continues but has been carefully sanitized! Small little plastic baggies hold the folded cash. I guess it makes sense but I remember sitting next to my sister-in-law Rosita, at a Molokai wedding in Kaunakakai many years later and said: "Not the same, ya? Ours was the best!" She smiled.

Before the Money Dance, my sister-in-law instructed me about the proper protocol required for this time. With wide eyes and serious consternation, she cautioned "Do not look at the money; when Philip takes it from you, he will let it drop to the floor, do not ever look at the money, even when it is on the floor. People will think you are greedy if you watch the money. They will think you are counting already." It was emphasized my behavior on this day was critical to the success of the marriage as well. The mes-

sage was clear; because all the people at the party knew Philip since childhood, all eyes would be on me.

My mother managed to thwart one tradition. Once we left the party, Philip and I were supposed to stay in a small house for seven days after the wedding. All of our meals would have been left at the door, as we were not supposed to leave the wedding house, an ancient tradition to yet again assure the success of the new couple. My mother, however, purchased a honeymoon for us in Kona on the Big Island of Hawai'i. She slipped us away with some story to the airport after we left the party. The celebration continued anyway. I am not sure we were even missed.

We heard that the feast that followed the wedding went on for three days. In the midst of all the preparations I don't think I stopped to think where all the food had come from. It was truly a blur of flowers and a mix of aromas that blended to a sweet memory for all time.

With the proceeds from the money dance, the gift envelopes, and the shot table bowl, we had about a thousand dollars (we thought we were very rich) tucked into a brown paper lunch sack. We arrived in Kona on a Sunday when all the banks were closed, so we hid the money under our bed in the sack, now very creased from my clutching.

We were officially married and beginning our lives together. ✨

*"We heard
that the feast
that followed
the wedding
went on for
three days."*

— CHRISTINE SABADO



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Dance International Foundation

From July 19 through 23, the Foundation and WEKAF Hawai'i will play host to the Unity in Diversity: A Cultural Gathering and the 15th World Escrima Kali Arnis Federation Championships in Lahaina.

"We're very excited to bring to Maui this world championship. This is a first for Hawai'i. Over 300 participants are expected to attend from the Philippines, Australia, the United States, and Canada," said Madelyne Pascua, president of Dance International Foundation. In 2016, Dance International Foundation traveled to Cebu at the invitation of Supreme Grand Master Dionisio Canete to participate in the WEKAF championship tournament. At the meeting of the WEKAF Congress, different countries submitted their bid to host the 2018 WEKAF championship tournament. The United States won the bid and in turn, the United States delegation decided that Hawai'i would be the proper venue. In turn, DIF took the lead to host it on Maui. "We were just invited to perform (13 dancers) and the next thing you know, the dancers were tested for color belts and they all passed at different levels, with three dancers at the highest one at the blue level," recalled Pascua.

Over a span of five days, Maui will be treated to something they've never seen before, as indicated by the following schedule.

July 19
10 a.m.–5 p.m. Parade of Nations, Sayaw or Forms [Lahaina Civic Center, 1840 Honoapiilani Highway, Lahaina]
6 p.m.–9 p.m. Welcome Reception [Lahaina Civic Center]

July 20
9 a.m.–5 p.m. Forms, Padded Sticks and Padded Daga (Knives); Bangkaw (Long Stick) [Lahaina Civic Center]

July 21
9 a.m.–5 p.m. Live Single Stick and Double Sticks [Lahaina Civic Center]
10 a.m.–2 p.m. Ori Tahitian Solo competition [Lahaina Civic Center]

July 22
9 a.m.–2 p.m. Live Single Stick and Double Sticks [Lahaina Civic Center]
5:30 p.m.–9 p.m. Awards Banquet/Lū'au [Lahaina Civic Center]

July 23
8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Grand Masters' Seminar [Na 'Aikane O Maui,

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Editor's note: Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.com. This month's column was compiled by Alfredo G. Evangelista.

562A Front Street, Lahaina]

The cultural displays, international performances and dance lessons will feature and honor Hawai'i's immigrants and plantation legacy. The WEKAF championships will include Forms, Padded Stick, Padded Daga (Knives), Bangkaw (Long Stick), Single Stick, and Double Sticks. The Grand Masters' Seminar will feature Grand Masters from the Philippines, the mainland U.S.A., and as a special treat, Ke'eaumoku Kapu, the 'ōlohe (master) of Lua, an ancient Hawaiian martial art of self-defense.

Entrance fee per day of \$12 (\$10 pre-sale through website or phone); \$30 four-day pass. \$25 for Welcome Reception. \$25 for Awards Banquet/Lū'au. \$70 (\$50 pre-sale through website or phone) for Grand Masters' Seminar, which includes lunch.

Volunteers are needed and Sponsorships are available (see box). To ensure your logo will be included in all promotional materials, sponsorship must be confirmed and paid by July 2, 2018. For more information, contact Madelyne Pascua at 268.7352. www.WekafHawaii.com. ✨

Event Sponsorship Packages

- | | | | |
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| Silver Sponsorship \$500 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logo on Posters• Logo on WEKAF Website and Facebook page• Four passes for the four days of competition• Two passes for the Welcome reception or 2 passes for the Awards Banquet/Luau• 1 Event T-shirt• 1 set of souvenir sticks | Gold Sponsorship \$1,200
<i>(LIMITED TO SIX COMPANIES)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All benefits of Silver Sponsorship PLUS• Sponsorship of Ring space which will be identified by a floor banner, approximately 2.5' high x 6' wide, that includes the Ring number, your Company's name, and your Company's logo• Advertisement (together with other Advertisers; actual size space depends on number of other Sponsors) in mid-July issue of <i>Fil-Am Voice</i> (5,000 distributed and on-line version) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One full-page advertisement (black and white) souvenir program• Logo on Welcome Poster at Kahului Airport• Two passes for the Welcome reception• Two passes for the Awards Banquet/Lū'au Platinum Sponsorship \$2,500
<i>(LIMITED TO TWO COMPANIES)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All benefits of Gold Sponsorship PLUS• Inside cover advertisement (color) souvenir program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Company banner inside the gymnasium• Logo on front cover of souvenir program• Logo on Posters• Logo on WEKAF website and Facebook page• Ten passes for the four days of competition• Four passes for the Welcome reception• Four passes for the Awards Banquet/Lū'au• 2 Event T-shirts• 2 set of souvenir sticks |
|--|---|--|--|



Sheila Manuel
CONTESTANT #1



Fayma Sales
CONTESTANT #2



Joylene Tabon
CONTESTANT #3



Rosabelle Nartates
CONTESTANT #4



Vanessa Baldos
CONTESTANT #5

2018 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant Contestants · Photos above by Ryan Piros Photography

Maui Filipino Community Council

The Council will hold the 2018 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant on June 30 at Wailea Beach Resort-Marriott. The Miss Maui Filipina pageant is the longest running pageant on Maui and in its 59th year and will feature five contestants this year.

The contestants who are vying to succeed 2017-2018 Miss Maui Filipina Gabrielle Gutierrez are:

Sheila Manuel, 22 years old and



a graduate of Lahainaluna High School. She is the daughter of Antonio Pagalilauan and Rosalina Arios of Lahaina.

Fayma Sales, 22 years old and a graduate of King Kekaulike High School. She is the daughter of Bobby and Feliciano Sales of Pukalani.

Joylene Tabon, 23 years old and a graduate of Maui High School. She is the daughter of Orlie and Jeannie Tabon of Kihei.

Rosabelle Nartates, 17 years old and attends Maui High School. She is the daughter of Ofamooni and Rosalie Felipe of Kihei.

Vanessa Baldos, 27 years old and a graduate of Maui High School.

She is the daughter of Danilo and Juvy Baldos of Kahului.

The Pageant will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Pageant tickets (no dinner) cost \$30 presale, \$35 at the door. Contact Event chairpersons Michelle Santos at 264-0871 and Dolores Pereira at 283-1605 for more information. ✨

Disclosures: Alfredo G. Evangelista is Legal Counsel for Dance International Foundation. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Maui Filipino Community Council (1975–1976)



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Leadership



As mayor, I will create a work environment where all of our county employees are empowered to use their boots-on-the-ground experience to help our county thrive.

I will maintain an open door policy for all county employees, and encourage ideas about how to operate more efficiently.

I will promote continuity in government by appointing directors who have experience working in and with the departments they will be tasked with leading.

Department directors will be experienced-based appointments with the skill sets necessary to make each of our departments thrive.

My staff and I have always taken the Kuleana approach to issues. As mayor, I will continue to get to the root of problems, strategize their solutions, and help residents communicate with the appropriate departments until a positive outcome is reached.

"No" or "can't" is never an answer.



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Get Out The Vote!

We all understand there are critical infrastructure and environmental issues that must be addressed with a culturally and community-minded approach, and my administration is prepared to implement a multitude of sustainable solutions with inclusivity and conscious leadership to benefit the public and our island homes as a whole.

This election your participation is so important, so we would like to remind everyone in Maui County of the crucial upcoming dates to mark in your calendar. If you want to vote EARLY from the comfort of your home, check the box for PERMANENT ABSENTEE and your ballot will be mailed to your home!

Join us in shaping and improving Maui, **GET OUT THE VOTE!**



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