



New Queen to Vie
Who will be crowned the new Miss Maui Filipina?

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Pageants are Memes of Import
Editor expounds on how Filipinos find meaning in pageants.

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Co-Publisher Vince Bagoyo, Jr. Highlighted in "Sakada Offspring"

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Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

June 2019 • Vol 3 No 6

FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

inside



Breaking the bamboo ceiling in so many ways.
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"Little man" stands up in Let's Talk Pinoy.
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What makes Filipino food uniquely "delicious?"
p15

FREE



Mary Grace Basig - Contestant #1



Mary Eileen Varquez - Contestant #2



Amber-Lee Lana - Contestant #3

PHOTOS: RYAN PIROS PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrating Talent, Beauty and Scholarship ... *The Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant*

Alfredo G. Evangelista, Assistant Editor

"And the Miss Maui Filipina is ..."

To date, almost seventy females on Maui have worn the crown of Miss Maui Filipina. (See list on page 13.) And one more will be added to that list on June 29 when the Maui Filipino Community Council hosts the 2019 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant at the Maui Beach Hotel. (Admission is \$40 (no dinner) and the Pageant will begin promptly at 7 p.m.)

Three contestants are vying to succeed Miss Maui Filipina 2018–2019 Vanessa Joy Baldos: Mary Grace Basig, Amber-Lee Lana and Mary Eileen Varquez. During Baldos' reign, she held a school supply fund raising drive for schoolchildren in the Philippines. (See Baldos' story—right.)

Basig, 26 years old, is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Language and Literature with a focus in the Ilokano dialect. Her parents are Reynaldo Valenti Taroma and Divina Gracia Basig Taroma. Basig traces her roots in the Philip-

pires to Batac City and Paoay, Ilocos Norte. Her favorite quote is "If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining."

Lana, 19 years old, is a graduate of the IBS School of Cosmetology and Massage, with a degree in Cosmetology and Massage. Her parents are Jayson and Jennifer Bayudan. Lana traces her roots in the Philippines to Marcos, Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan. Her favorite quote is "Focus on the positive."

Varquez, 23 years old, is a graduate of University of Hawai'i Maui College, with a degree in Accounting and Business Administration. Her parents are Wilson Pineda and Rita Varquez Pineda. Varquez traces her roots in the Philippines to Sarrat, Ilocos Norte and Davao City. Her favorite quote is "All you need is faith, trust and a little pixie dust."

Several past Miss Maui Filipinas offered their advice to the three contestants. "My advice to this year's pageant contestants is to approach it as a

see PAGEANT p.2

My Voice as Miss Maui Filipina: Be Empowered

Editor's note: The Fil-Am Voice welcomes our newest writer, **Vanessa Joy Baldos**.



2018 Miss Maui Filipina Vanessa Joy Baldos will pen articles in the *Fil-Am Voice*.

PHOTO: JULIO BAYEZ

A rush of emotions run through me. Excitement. Nervousness. Listening to the crowd, I feel the anticipation between my pageant sisters and me. For one night, the stage is ours. Countless hours of practicing poise, grace, and confidence all led to this very moment. I'm sure that this year, our Miss Maui Filipina contestants will feel the same rush of adrenaline.

It was a daunting choice to put myself on stage again for the 2018 Miss Maui Filipina pageant. I was a contestant in 2009, right after high school. Miss Celina Hayashi was crowned as Miss Maui Filipina 2009 and I placed

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Pageant...

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challenge with yourself,” said Rochelle Amadeo, Miss Maui Filipina 1980. “What is it about yourself you want to change, improve, share or how can you be a blessing to others with this opportunity? It is not about competing with the other contestants. It is a competition with yourself. If you can understand that, no matter what happens you will always come out ahead with or without a crown on your head.”

The thought the pageant was not about winning the crown was also echoed by Miss Maui Filipina 2000 Rowena Dagdag. “Be VERY OPEN to constructive criticism and use the feedback you receive from the coaches to improve your skills. The ultimate goal in this or any pageant isn’t the title or the crown. You are given an opportunity to refine your skills in interviewing, public speaking, presentation, time management, relationship building, and developing poise and confidence. These skills are important in life and will help you be successful in the future.”

Agnes Macadangdang, Miss Maui Filipina 1978 thanks the contestants for stepping forward. “To the contestants, I thank you for being involved and having the courage to participate. To put yourself out there is by no means an easy thing to do! Enjoy the journey and have fun with the experience! You will undoubtedly experience tremendous personal growth and will learn so much from this experience. More important, take this time to understand and learn about your Filipino



The first nine Miss Maui Filipinas.
IMAGES COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

heritage as much as you can. How did your Filipino ancestors form your personal foundation, how does it personally impact your present life and how will you perpetuate it for future generations? We have a beautiful culture, one that you can be proud of. Take this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in it wholeheartedly! As a Filipina, know your past, incorporate it in your present and engage in leaving a worthy legacy for our future generations. Here in Hawai’i, the grit, steadfastness and perseverance of our *Sakada* ancestors are the cornerstones of our Filipino community. Our accomplishments pale to what they have overcome. We would not be where we are today if not for them. We have



1961 Miss Maui Filipina Myrna Malaqui crowned by Chairman Eddie Tam
IMAGES COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

come a long way and have a bright, promising future ahead of us as we continue to strive together. *Dios ti agngina*, thank you 2019 Miss Maui Filipina contestants for doing your part in serving our community!”

The Miss Maui Filipina pageant was first held in 1961 at the Wailuku Armory with Myrna Malaqui crowned as the Miss Maui Filipina. Initially the pageant was based on popularity, i.e., the amount of funds the candidate raised for the scholarship program.

Judith Dagdag, Miss Maui Filipina 1968 recalls Mrs. Alice Ragasa going to their house to ask her parents permission for her to run. “I was eighteen years old at that time. My parents decided that I should run. There were two of us—me and Amanda Bio. It was held at the Haole Club House in Pu’unēnē. In those days, the winner was determined by the amount of



1964 Miss Maui Filipina Carol Galarita with her parents during the coronation pageant at Wailuku Armory.
IMAGES COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

scholarship funds raised. I don’t remember how much I raised. I don’t know how we were judged. That was a long time ago. But I had to wear a *terno* and I also danced *Salakot*.”

In 1970, the pageant was given a new format that included different phases of competition. “Nancy Andres and I went to the Miss Hawai’i Filipina contest and we got their criteria and decided to upgrade our Maui queen contest,” said Agrifina “Aggie” Cabebe. “We started with three phases: the *Kimona* Formal Phase; the Talent Phase; and the *Terno* Phase and Oral Questioning.”

The year 1970 was a critical year for the Maui Filipino Community Council. It was the first year of the Council’s Fiesta Filipina, with events spanning from May 1 through July 11, 1970, including an Introduction of the Queen contestants on May 1 with a motorcade from Wells Park to the

see PAGEANT p.4



“If it takes a village to raise a child, I’m grateful for my village being there at every milestone.”

- Leslie Garo with family
Christ the King Pre-school
Graduation, 2019





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The Queen...

from p. 1

2nd runner up but won 1st place in the Speech phase. Looking back, I know I've learned a lot about myself since then. I chose to run again in 2018 as part of my journey to take risks and lead by example. Being the oldest contestant in the group, I wanted to exemplify that you can do anything that you put your mind to achieving. Not winning the first time I participated did not deter me from trying again. If at first you don't succeed, try again, right?

The biggest challenge was deciding what I would do as my talent. After much contemplation, I decided that performing a slam poem represented me best. In 2009, I played the clarinet. This time, I considered dancing—hula, Tahitian, or a Filipino Folk dance. I had feedback from friends and family that wanted me to perform a dance number. I had to choose between what was comfortable or safe or something I truly loved but was a risk to do since not everyone was familiar with it. In the end, my passion for writing called to me. "Hear My Voice" was the pageant theme. My "voice" sang through my writing. I knew that although others were not familiar with slam poetry—it was something I was passionate about. I wrote about the challenges of first-generation Filipinos growing up with parents that had very traditional values. How strict rules translated into the greatest form of love—the love that our parents' have for us. Emotionally charged, I was eager to bring my audience through the waves of emotions and phases that each of us can relate to with our parents. Curiosity, frustration, and in the end, only love and appreciation. With happy tears in my eyes, I whispered thank you to my parents. Although I did not win the title of Miss Maui Filipina that night, my greatest reward came through my talent translating as the biggest *salamat*



Visit to Iglesia de San Agustín de Paoay, the Roman Catholic Church in Paoay, Ilocos Norte. The original church was completed in 1710.
PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA BALDOS



Visit to Ilocos Sur Capital in Vigan.
PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA BALDOS

that I could ever give them for what they've done for me. I did win 1st place in talent.

When Joy Nina Tabon won the title, I was ecstatic for her. Each of us worked hard in preparation for each phase. It could have been any one of us to receive the crown. I am so thankful to have obtained lifelong sisters through this experience. My pageant sisters and I—Joy, Fayma Sales, Sheila Manuel, and Rosabelle Nartates all keep in touch. Our rehearsals never felt like a competition. We were about growing together, helping each other and fitting in as many laughs along the way. At the end of the competition, I was a little sad that rehearsals would be over. I looked forward to the time that we shared. At my coronation, they surprised me. Joy and Fayma sang duet to "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. And smothered me with hugs with Sheila in tow. Having friends like them who lift each other are so important.

Having the responsibility of the crown and title made me realize a few things. 1 - Your reign is what you make of it. 2 - Having the crown also requires the confidence to wear it. 3 - You can truly do anything you want to achieve. My platform of wanting to give back to Maui to make it a better place served as a foundation for my love of giving. I've spent my reign trying to give back to others in our community and the Philippines.

I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity to help build homes in Kahoma Village in Lahaina and held a fundraiser to raise money. I cooked over 50 servings of *Kare Kare* and sold them to friends and family to raise funds for donation. I love to cook Filipino food but I'm not sure if I'll attempt that again. At first, I was very shy about having the title but realized I could use it to help others in need. So, I decided I would use my goodwill trip to the Philippines as an opportunity to give back to the place of my cultural heritage. My fundraiser for school supplies for children in the Philippines began on March 3rd. I raised half of my goal of \$800 within two weeks. The week before I left for my trip, I raised \$1,752. The amount of support I received over social media and in person was overwhelming. This gave me the opportunity to equip over 150 students with not only school supplies but also backpacks. I did also include extras such as the donated school supplies I received, a toothbrush, toothpaste, as well as a snack cake and juice pack for the kids to enjoy. I visited the schools that my parents attended. I was amazed, trying to imagine my parents as little 6-year-olds running to class, eating snacks or playing on the court. It felt so good to give back. And I'm so grateful for the help I received to do just that. I never imagined being able to enjoy every moment that led to this.

I'm excited and proud to bestow the crown to the next queen. This year's theme, "Be Empowered" rings so true for our people today. These ladies will learn throughout their experiences they are empowered to do all things they wish to accomplish. If there is change you want to create in the world, there is no better person to do it than you. I'm excited to see what these ladies will bring to the table come pageant night. I'm excited to see them *be empowered*. ✨

Vanessa Joy Baldos is the reigning 2018–2019 Miss Maui Filipina. She is a graduate of Maui High School and is currently attending University of Hawai'i Maui College and aspires to continue being an asset for Maui County. She is currently employed with the County of Maui, Department of Parks & Recreation and Coldwell Banker - Wailea Village as a Realtor. When she has free time, she loves to go fishing, go to the gym and practice aerial silks. Aside from her involvement as a Miss Maui Filipina, she also volunteers her time throughout the community with Maui Filipino Community Council, Binhi at Ani, Kahului Public Library and Habitat for Humanity.



Congratulations...

Janna Aguinaldo
W.R. Farrington High School

Kawohikukapulani Duvauchelle
Molokai High School

Chloe Kalani
Mililani High School

Nikki Ooka
H.P. Baldwin High School

Mina Poppas
Waiakea High School

Chloe V. Sabandal
W.R. Farrington High

Chloe Nicole Salacup
Kapolei High School

Victoria Teoh
H.P. Baldwin High School

Jordyn Vierra
H.P. Baldwin High School

Leiko Yamauchi
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From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

The Beauty of Filipinas

Our Filipino culture highly values the beauty of Filipinas. When the 2018 Miss Philippines Catriona Gray was crowned Miss Universe in 2018, Filipinos world-wide were so proud ... even though Gray was born in Australia and moved to the Philippines only after high school. Gray was the fourth Filipina to win the Miss Universe title following Gloria Diaz (1969), Margie Moran-Floirendo (1973) and Pia Wurtzbach (2015). By comparison, the United States claims eight titles, including Hawai'i's Brook Lee in 1997.

And who wasn't proud when Angela Perez Baraquo, a Filipina from Hawai'i won the Miss America pageant in 2001?

Here on Maui, the Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant is one of the longest-running pageants. It started in 1961 and has a long history of supporting scholarships as well as perpetuating our Filipino culture and showcasing talent, speaking abilities, grace, and yes, overall beauty—inside and out.

It's not easy to run such a pageant; it all starts with the difficult task of recruitment followed by intense training as most candidates are not quite pageant ready, production of the show, and marketing ... and then in a month or so, competition for the Miss Hawai'i Filipina Pageant—which Maui has won for the last five years!

In my own family, my sister

Donna won the Miss Filipina-Hawai'i Scholarship Pageant on the Big Island in 1979 and she was first runner up in the statewide Miss Hawai'i Filipina pageant. I recall my sister working hard to perfect her talent, her pageant poses, her smile, her everything. And our family, especially my Dad Daniel and Mom Fecilitas, were so proud of Donna's accomplishments. Plus Donna won a trip to the Philippines as part of her prizes.

I really appreciate the hard work and sacrifices of the contest-



My sister Donna won the Miss Filipina-Hawai'i Scholarship pageant on the Big Island in 1979 ...



ants, their family, and their friends and supporters.

Beauty pageants are a valued institution in our Filipino culture. They build character, self confidence, cement one's Filipino cultural roots, and establish lifetime friends among the sisterhood of contestants.

Please continue to support the Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant and let's help them to **Be Empowered!** ✨

Tante Urban

TANTE URBAN | EDITOR



Aggie Cabebe (left) and Pauline Agres (right) performing in Hilo

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Pageant...

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Kahului Shopping Center; a *Santa Cruzan* Festival on May 29 at the Kahului Shopping Center; the first annual Barrio Fiesta on May 31, and the Queen Contest and Coronation on June 6 at the Baldwin auditorium. The pageant even published a souvenir program (24 pages).

Andres was the Fiesta Filipina co-chairperson, together with Fred Dululao while Shirley Evangelista and Artemio Baxa were co-chairpersons of the Queen contest. Cabebe and Dululao would co-chair the Queen contest in 1971.

"When Nancy became president in 1972, I looked for a person to assist with the queen contest and found Pauline Agres," said Cabebe. "Together, the three of us would be called The Three Musketeers."

Cabebe had a lot of respect for Andres and developed a close working relationship with her. "The first time I met Nancy was when she came to Maui in 1964 to perform as part of the *Saniatan ti Amianan*. That's why I named my Folk Dance troupe *The Maui Saniatas* in the late 1960's," Cabebe recalls. "I got my nickname 'General' because I served as the General Chairperson of the Filipino Fiesta for many years, beginning in 1972 when Nancy became president of the Maui Filipino Community Council."

The pageant underwent a few more changes over the years. In 1973, the Bathing Suit Phase was added and in 1976, the Terno Phase and Oral Questioning was renamed to Formal Gown Appearance and Interview. Later, the Pre-Pageant Interview Phase was added.

And in 1976, a trip to the Philippines was offered as a prize. "I was the first chaperone," said Cabebe. "Nobody wanted to go. They were scared. I had family in Manila so I wasn't scared."

The trip was an absolute success. In her message printed in the 1977 souvenir booklet, Miss Maui Filipina 1976 Angela Moniz wrote "It is difficult to express all the significant impressions woven into my being but what made this trip even more beau-

tiful were the people I had the opportunity to meet. Wherever we went, warm and sincere smiles greeted us. I will never forget the many friends that I have made both abroad and in our community. I have gained a deeper understanding of myself in respect to my cultural heritage and with its understanding arises a genuine appreciation for all that I have received. In our fast moving everchanging world, the reflection of our Filipino culture should be maintained as a significant and valuable aspect of our lives."

For Sharon Zalsos, Miss Maui Filipina 1997, the promise of a trip was what made her participate. "My mother back then, had a great deal of influence on me and she made me run. So even though I was too shy to participate in the scholarship pageant, she convinced me to join and possibly win a trip to the Philippines. 'You can

see Lola Cisay again,' she said. That sealed the deal for me. The pageant was in 1997 and we had just immigrated to Hawai'i in 1992. I was missing the Philippines and a free trip sounded very appealing."

Amadeo explains the trip was just part of the highlight of her reign. "Well like everyone else I would say the trip to the Philippines for sure! But looking back, I would have to say that the true highlight

of my reign was connecting with my Filipino heritage for the first time in my 18 years of life. I am part Hawaiian, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Spanish and Filipino. I say it in that order because that is how I truly identified myself. I really knew very little about the Filipino culture. My Filipino heritage came alive for me through and with the people I met throughout the State and abroad. Those interactions introduced me to the language, foods, music, religion and culture that were never a part of my circle growing up. That experience alone was and still is priceless to me."

Macadangdang echoed Amadeo's explanation. "The overall experience of being Miss Maui Filipina was personally rewarding; so much more than I expected. While I fondly reminisce about my Miss Maui Filipina Philippine tour, it was not that alone nor any one particular event or activity that I can pinpoint as the 'high-

see PAGEANT p.13



Andres in 1970 as General Co-Chairperson of the Filipina Fiesta.

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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Vicente & Rosa Bagoyo



Oldest Daughter Megan and Son-In-Law Joseph McKellar with Pope Francis



Vince Bagoyo, Jr.

Our featured *Sakada* Offspring this month is the *Fil-Am Voice* Co-Publisher and Staff writer, Vince Bagoyo, Jr. He was born in Santa, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on August 17, 1953. His parents were the late Vincent C. Bagoyo, Sr. and Rosa Galinato Bagoyo. He is married to Jennifer Bagoyo, a retired former RN/Case Manager at Maui Memorial Medical Center. They have three daughters: Megan McKellar (Educator/Vice Principal), Meredith Burns (Registered Nurse), and Mallory Kumangai (Registered Nurse). They have two grandchildren, Makenna June and Noah Vincent Burns.

Vince's father, Vincent Bagoyo, Sr. was a 1946 *Sakada* who came to Hawai'i on April 26, 1946 leaving behind his pregnant wife Rosa and his two young daughters to find a better life for his family. He left Port Salama, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on board the *S.S. Maunawili*. He was able to come to Hawai'i by luck and by creativity. It so happened that a man named Mariano Galinato changed his mind to come to Hawai'i. So Vincent and his very supportive wife, Rosa asked if they could buy or pay Mariano Galinato for his recruitment papers. Mr. Galinato happily agreed to sell his recruitment papers

Vince G. Bagoyo, Jr.

Editor's Note: Many on The Fil-Am Voice's staff have connections to Sakadas and the plantations. Although we generally hate to be the subject of the articles / columns, this is the fourth in a series focusing on The Fil-Am Voice's staff's Sakada offsprings.

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY VINCE BAGOYO

to them. The Bagoyos paid 20 pesos for that paper. With the help of the former Governor of Santa, Ilocos Sur, Gov. Sixto Brillantes, Vincent got through the immigration lines, doctor check up lines, etc. with flying colors even though not as Vincent Bagoyo but as Mariano Galinato. He had to make sure that when he was called on the *S.S. Maunawili* that he must remember that he was Mariano Galinato. It was difficult at first but he got used to that name.

Upon reaching Hawai'i, they were able to choose which plantation they wanted to go and work. Vincent chose to go to Lāna'i to work under the Dole Company for 50 cents per hour. Young Vincent cut grass in the pineapple fields but he lasted for only five days. He wasn't meant to be a field worker.

Vincent had a brother named Nazario Bagoyo who lived in Honolulu

and who owned a café called Spic and Span Café. Nazario welcomed his brother Vincent to work for him for less than a year. Unfortunately, Spic and Span Café had to be closed.

Vincent found a job at Pearl Harbor and he worked there for three years.

On the other hand, Nazario came to work at the Pioneer Mill in Lahaina. Vincent missed his young family so much that he decided to go back to the Philippines for good in September 1949.

see BAGOYO next page



Vince & Jennifer Bagoyo

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Philippine Mission Team



Philippine Mission

Bagoyo... from p. 5

While in the Philippines, Vincent got involved in politics. He was so involved to a point that he ran for Council and won. He even had an ambition of working up to run for Mayor or even perhaps for Governor of Ilocos Sur. However, politics in the Philippines is quite different from politics here in the United States. It was not as peaceful. The Bagoyos encountered some trying times in the Philippine politics.

Being a very caring brother, Nazario filed a petition for Vincent if he wanted to come back to Hawai'i. Vincent chose to come back. Both Rosa and Vincent agreed and were convinced that it was all in God's plan for them. Vincent came back to Hawai'i in July 27, 1966. Besides

working, Vincent and Rosa were involved in different Filipino Organizations such as the United Santanians Organization, Kahului Filipino Community Association and he was the founder of the Saranay Maui Organization.

The Bagoyos were blessed with five children: Rosalia Lozano, Leticia Enriques, Rogelio Bagoyo, Estrella Cabatic (deceased), and Vince Bagoyo, Jr. All except Vince were educated in the Philippines. Vince received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 1980 and his Masters Degree in Public Administration from California State University at Long Beach in 1981.

From 1982 to 1984, Vince was the Director of the Maui County Department of Human Concerns and Housing. He directed and coordinated Maui County's social services programs for the elderly, youth, disabled, and low-income residents. He was responsible for the planning and development of County-sponsored affordable housing projects in Maui County.

From 1984 to 1990, Vince was the Director of the Maui County Department of Water Supply. He developed financial and operating strategies for the department's projected twenty-year master plans. He approved and directed pipeline, pump, treatment and storage projects on Maui and Molokai. He developed water rates for the department that required Maui County Council and Board of Water Supply approval.

Vince is a very community-oriented-
see BAGOYO p.12



Daughters Megan McKellar, Meredith Burns and Mallory Kumangai

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Joseph Blanco (Center)



Sam Callejo

EDITOR’S NOTE: 2019 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of Benjamin J. Cayetano as the Fifth Governor of the State of Hawai‘i and the first Filipino-American elected as the head of an American state. This is the sixth in a series of articles profiling Cayetano and his historic election and service. Versions of these articles appeared previously in The Filipino Summit.

Counting Heads

In the summer of 1994, Filipino lawyer Alfredo Evangelista received a telephone call at his Grauly Evangelista & Quiban law firm from a so-called leader in the Filipino community. Throughout the hour-long telephone conversation, the so-called leader peppered Fred with a series of questions about Lt. Gov. Ben Cayetano. The conversation came down to whether Ben was the best candidate and, if elected, how many Filipinos would he appoint to his cabinet.

Fred, who had worked with Cayetano at the Schutter law firm and who had been involved in the two successful campaigns for Lt. Governor could not help but get frustrated with the questions and the inability of this so-called leader in the Filipino community to understand the significance of having a Filipino as the leader of the state government. He finally snapped, “It doesn’t matter how many Filipinos he appoints. I’d rather have the number one in the State be Filipino and no other Filipinos than having a non-Filipino and lots of Filipinos.” To Fred, it was useless to continue that conversation but he realized that there would be folks out there counting how many Manongs and Manangs would be in any administration.

Sometime after the 1994 election, a Filipino community “leader” commented to some friends who worked on Lt. Gov. Cayetano’s campaign his interest in serving as a director or deputy director in the Cayetano administration. Asked if the person was going to sub-

mit a letter in response to the new Governor’s advertisement, the person snapped: “If they want me, they know where I am.”

That person never served in the Cabinet.

One of the things that always surprised me was the selected scrutiny placed on the Governor’s appointments to his Cabinet and state boards and commissions by some people in the Filipino community. Gubernatorial and mayoral candidates have made promises about appointing a certain number of Filipinos (and some actually have done so upon election apparently). Ben Cayetano never made such promises.

As the administration held press conferences on new appointments, certain Filipino community members would show up at the Executive Chambers to count the number of Manongs and Manangs being introduced or announced.

While Governor Cayetano did appoint quite a number of Filipinos to various positions throughout his eight years, there was an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the number and perhaps ultimately the people who were tapped.

What they perhaps missed is that Governor Cayetano quietly broke the bamboo ceiling of such a spoils systems. Instead of one or two cabinet positions, one Supreme Court position, only certain administrative bodies or Cabinet positions or legislative seats, it was wide open. Filipinos served in all kinds of places during Governor Cayetano’s administration, reflecting the varied skills, experiences and professions in the community.

Governor Cayetano included four Filipino directors during his term of office: Sam Callejo as comptroller, George Iranon as public safety director, Leonard Agor as labor director and myself as the first Filipino Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Commission on Water Resources Management (and briefly as

labor director). Callejo later held the Chief of Staff position as well.

As a lawyer, one significant moment for me was when Governor Cayetano elevated Intermediate Court Judge Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court. Conventional wisdom would have raised political concerns that the five-member court

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

A Cayetano Retrospective

Benjamin Cayetano: First highest-ranking elected official of Filipino ancestry in the State of Hawai‘i: 6th in a series.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

already had a Filipino—Justice Mario Ramil. The Governor also named to the circuit court bench Reynaldo Grauly and Artemio Baxa, two Philippine-born lawyers.

At the end of the administration, Fred compiled a list of Cayetano appointees from the Filipino community. For the most part, these people applied although no doubt the Governor and his circle certainly knew where some of them were and did go and get them.

Appointments to the Cabinet:

LEONARD AGOR, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

RUDY ALIVADO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SAM CALLEJO, GOVERNOR’S CHIEF OF STAFF; STATE COMPTROLLER, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN, CHAIR-

MAN, BOARD OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES; DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

MARK FORMAN, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

REYNALDO GRAULTY, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MOYA DAVENPORT GRAY, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INFORMATION

GEORGE IRANON, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ALFRED LARDIZABAL, DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

PAULINE NAMUO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ERIC PENAROSA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

JOHN SABAS, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

ROBERT VIDUYA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Senior Staff Appointments in the Office of the Governor:

CLARITA BARRETTO, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR

GENARO BIMBO, DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

JOSEPH F. BLANCO, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR; SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

SAM CALLEJO, CHIEF OF STAFF

SHEILA FORMAN, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

KIM MURAKAWA, PRESS SECRETARY

PAULINE NAMUO, LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

KATHLEEN RACUYA-MARKRICH,

see CAYETANO next page

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Cayetano...

from p. 7

PRESS SECRETARY

DAVID RODRIGUEZ, LEGISLATIVE CO-ORDINATOR

ROBERT VIDUYA, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Appointments to the Judiciary:

SIMEON R. ACOBA, JR., SUPREME COURT OF HAWAI'I

ARTEMIO BAXA, CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT

REYNALDO D. GRAULTY, CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Appointments to the Legislature:

FELIPE ABINSAY, JR., STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BENJAMIN CABREROS, STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WILLIE ESPERO, STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RON MENOR, STATE SENATE

DEPT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

ETHEL ALIKPALA WARD, 1996

ALFRED LAURETA, 1997, 2001

DEPT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Defender Council

GERONIMO VALDRIZ, 1995, 1999

ALFRED B. CASTILLO, JR., 1999

Board of Directors, Housing

Finance and Development Corporation

BENJAMIN SAGUIBO, 1997

DEPT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council

VINCE G. BAGOYO, JR., 1995, 1998

Hawai'i Community Development Authority

ALLAN LOS BANOS, JR., 2001

Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation

B. MARTIN LUNA, 1999

Board of Directors, Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation

TED SUBIA MINA, 1995

ROSE CRUZ CHURMA, 1997

ANTONIO J. SAGUIBO, JR., 2001

EDMUND C. ACZON, 2002

Hawai'i Tourism Marketing Council

SANDRA K.M. ALBANO, 1995

CHA THOMPSON, 1995

LETICIA T. GAOING, 1997

Board of Directors, Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawai'i

ALLAN LOS BANOS, JR., 1998, 1999

Land Use Commission

ISAAC FIESTA, JR., 1997, 2001

Small Business Regulatory

Review Board

MEMITO N. ABLAN, 1999

DEPT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

State Board of Public Accountancy

MARIA A. UNEMORI, 1996

State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i

ALFRED CASTRO, 2002

State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

MAUDE I. PANGANIBAN, D.C., 1996

Contractors License Board

CLYDE J. EUGENIO, 1995, 1999

ERNIE BELLO, 1999

ANACLETO "LITO" ALCANTRA, 2000

Board of Dental Examiners

JANET M. Y. PRIMIANO, 1995

MODESTA GAERLAN-TOKUNAGA, D.D.S., 1997

State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects

OSCAR PORTUGAL, 2000

ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA, 2002

Board of Medical Examiners

ANTONIO K. TAN, M.D., 1995

RAMON K. SY, M.D., 1999

State Board of Nursing

ROWENA TACHIBANA, L.P.N., 1998

Board of Osteopathic Examiners

RUDY BRIONES, 1997

Board of Pharmacy

ANGELINA E. RAMOS-TABLIZO, 1998

Board of Private Detectives and Guards

FRANK P. LAFITA, 1997

Board of Public Broadcasting

RICKY C. MANAYAN, 1995, 1999

MAGDALENA PASION DOMINGO, 1996

Real Estate Commission

ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA, 1996, 1998

DEPT OF DEFENSE

Civil Defense Advisory Council

ALBERT "BENNY" RODERO, 1995, 1999

EDITH C. PASCUA, 1997, 1998, 2002

ALEJANDRO LOMOSAD, 1996, 2000

Advisory Board on Veterans Services

ROGELIO EVANGELISTA, 1996, 2000

ED MINA, 1997

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

District School Advisory Council, First School Board District

DONNAMARIE B. PABRE, 1995

District School Advisory Council, Third School Board District

ALMO PARASO, 1995

Hawai'i School-to-Work

Opportunities Executive Council

THERESIA C. MCMURDO, 1998, 2001

NOBLEZA E. MAGSANOC, 2000

Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

GERVACIO BUENCONSEJO, 1996, 1998

DEPT OF HEALTH

Architectural Access Committee

OSCAR C. PAEZ, JR., 1996, 1997

State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

ESPERANZA N. CADAVONA, 1999

Disability and Communication Access Board

OSCAR C. PAEZ, JR., 2000

Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

DOMINIC K. INOCELDA, 1997

LORRAINE GODOY, 1997

Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

FELY LIBRE FAULKNER, 1995, 1999

RICHARD I.C. CALDITO, SR., 2000

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

TEOFILO PHIL TACBIAN, 2000

Environmental Council

ROGER CASTRO, 1997

MELISSA DUMARAN, 2002

Central O'ahu Subarea Health Planning Council

ADELA G. SANIDAD, 1996

Hawai'i County Subarea Health Planning Council

LITO ASUNCION, 1997

JULIETTE M. TULANG, 2001

Kaua'i County Subarea Health Planning Council

ELEANOR R. RAGASA, 1997

CESAR G. CADABES, 2000

ELIZABETH UBAY, 2000

TRINIDAD RAVAL, 2001

AIDA PASCUAL, 2002

Windward O'ahu Subarea Health Planning Council

AGNES E. PIGAO CADIZ, 2000

Diamond Head Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

FRED PASCUA, 1995, 1999

Maui Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

ROWENA MARIE DAGDAG, 2000

Windward O'ahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

KATHERINE BALTAZAR, 2000

Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants

JOSE M. PADRON, 1995, 1999

County Public Health Facility Management Advisory Committee, County of Maui

DOLORES MALAGSIC FABRAO, see CAYETANO p.13

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Congratulations to all graduates. Way to go Class of 2019! Warmest congratulations to our daughters, Vanessa Kate Erin and Angeline Joy on your graduation. You amazed us with your accomplishments! It took a lot of hard work to reach this goal. You had to do it, whether you felt like it or not. I hope you feel great about what you’ve accomplished and I hope you’ll continue to be a person who does things that are worthwhile and important in life

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

to not only make us proud but also make yourselves proud too. May you always dare to do great things in your lives. We love you kiddos. June 1st this year is the official first day of summer for most students liv-

ing on Maui. Summer is a time where family trips are booked, endless beach weekends, and let’s not forget the heat. It must have been 93 degrees outside today with no breeze. Even so, I can remember so many great mem-

ories were made during my summer breaks and with it officially starting, it’s off to the races to create more magical moments. This summer, we will have our first whole family vacation. Four generations, 20+ people in a six bedroom, three story house. We will see if we survive each other. I look forward to the making of great memories with the family. Last time, Michael and Angel were in the car headed to West Maui. Let’s see what happens this week.

MICHAEL: Knock, Knock.
ANGEL SNIFFLES: Who’s there?
MICHEL: *Halik* (Kiss).
ANGEL: *Halik* (Kiss) who?
MICHAEL: Kiss me.

A brief pause as Angel turns to Michael who is now flush red and clinching the steering wheel with the grip of death, looking straight ahead. Angel bursts into a laugh, and wipes her eyes.
After listening to a few pop songs on the radio, Angel blurbs out “Michael, I need to change the station, Ariana Grande is killing me,” then fiddles with the radio stations.

Soon, they pull into the ProPark parking lot near Lahaina Foodland and Michael backs his *sasakyan* (car) into a parking stall. As soon as he puts the shifter in “P”, Angel screams “Ahh, I love this *kanta* (song)!”
Startled, Michael looks over at Angel who reaches for the volume knob, cranks it up to high and starts singing to the Luke Bryan song. “She was like, oh my God, this is my song.” Angel jumps out of the *kotse* (car) and starts to *sayaw* (dance), twirls and laughs. Now fronting the *saken* (car) she leans over the hood and points to Michael.

Angel signaling him the “*magaabot* (come) here” gesture with her index finger, puckering her lips and posing her sexy stance. She continues to sing, “She was like, come here boy, I wanna to dance, ‘fore I said a word, she was takin’ my hand.”
Grinning, Michael turns off the *sakyanan* (car) and quickly climbs out of the driver’s seat.

Angel dances around him and they both *umawit* (sing) while passers-by watch and stare at them “and she said play it again, play it again play it again.” Michael spins her, “And I said play it again, play it again, play it again.”

They both laugh and Angel skips off. Michael tries to catch up but she speeds up faster, giggling. He leaps for her as she turns around and they bump into each other.
“Wow, Mr. Poop emoji,” Angel says, pointing to his shirt. “What a nice voice you have.”

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Song	Awit	Kanta	Kanta	Kanta	Kansion	Kanta
Kiss	Halik	Anggo	Paghalok	Haluk	Ummo	Muma
Dance	Sayaw	Sala	Sayaw	Baile	Tala	Terak
Today	Ngayon araw	Ita nga aldaw	Karun	Subong	Aggaw	Ngeni
Knee	Tuhod	Tumeng	Tuhod	Tuhud	Atuk	Intud
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Come	Halika	Umay ka	Duul dinhi	Magaabot	Umekataw	Mekeni
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamut	Lima	Gamat
Sing	Umawit	Nagkanta	Awiton	Kanta	Kansion	Dalit
Feet	Paa	Saka	Takki	Bitis	Tiil	Tiil

Michael chuckles, “Oh, like poke?” while pointing to her t-shirt.
“Now, now, behave Mr. Poopie, we just met,” Angel teased Michael.
She covers her chest and bats her eyes.
MICHAEL: Let’s go for a walk. This is called Front
Suddenly a teen on a bike nearly runs him over. “So sorry mister to you and your daughter!” as he raises his *kamot* (hand) and disappears around the corner.

Michael pointing at the teen, grunts, “She’s not my daughter!” then trips on the curb. Dusting himself off and checking for any injuries, Michael notices a piece of paper stuck on his palm. He opens it and instantly recognizes it as one of those papers hidden inside a fortune cookie. “Make good choices today, so you don’t have regrets tomorrow.” He quickly crumples it and attempts to throw it back on the ground, at the same time Angel standing over him, helping him up. “Sheez Michael, you sure fall down a lot,” she says with a grin.
“Make good choices today, so you don’t have regrets tomorrow,” echoed his conscience in Michael’s ear.

“Do you have a band-aid?” Michael asks.
ANGEL: No I ...

MICHAEL: I scraped my *tumeng* (knee) when I fell for you.
Angel looks at Michael in dismay

and they stand looking at each other in silence.
“Yes! Michael, I can’t believe we just said that,” his conscience says to him.
ANGEL: What did you just say?
Michael clears his throat and says “I scraped my *atuk* (knee) when I fell for you.”
“Wooo! Slam dunk Michael! Way to go again!” his conscience says.

ANGEL: Michael
Michael gleaming “Yes?”
ANGEL: I don’t get it.

Exasperated, Michael smacks his *gamat* (hand) on his face, turns around and points to the street. “Haha, never-mind that. Let’s go for a walk on Front Street.”
Angel followed a few steps behind him, blushing.

They pass the USPS post office and Bank of Hawai’i on the way to Front Street. There, facing them is Bubba Gump Shrimp Company. Angel sees a bench with shoes, dashes in front of Michael and crosses the street. She sits on the bench, fits her *paa* (feet) in the shoes, places her *kamay* (hand) on the box of chocolates, and says “Mama said, life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what

you’re gonna get.”
Michael fumbling his phone, snaps a few photos.
“She looks good wearing my t-shirt,” he says to himself.
With a sinister smile, the voice in his head says, “I’m never going to wash that shirt ever again. Hahaha.”
ANGEL: What’s so funny? And why won’t you wash this shirt Michael?
“OMG, did I say that out loud,” he says to himself.
Slowly hiding behind his camera phone, he continues to take photos.
ANGEL: *Mekeni* (Come) here, let’s do a selfie!

Michael sits next to her and positions his camera for a selfie. Angel turns and leans back into him, then places her *kamay* (hand) on his leg.
INSIDE OF MICHAEL’S BODY: Alarms start to blare. WARNING WARNING WARNING, DANGER! TEMPERATURE RISING. ABORT ABORT ABORT.
Michael, never been touched by a woman before, begins to shake and the camera falls on his lap. Angel turns to look at Michael and tries to recover the phone. He is now turning pale.

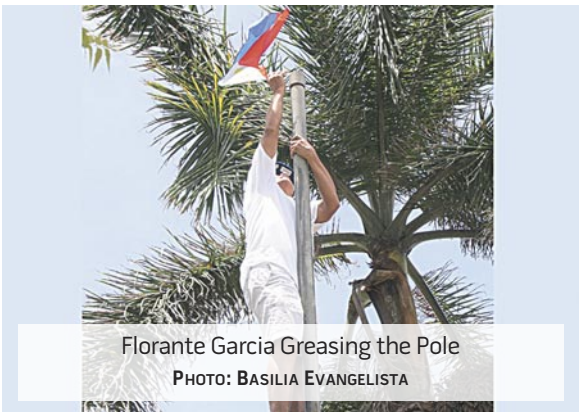
BACK INSIDE HIS BODY: DANGER, TEMPERATURE OVERLOAD, EXPORTING EXTRA HEAT NOW.

All of a sudden, Michael feels his little man rising. “Oh no, not now!” he says to himself.
Sweating bullets, the little man rises to full attention. He nudges her away and fakes an injury. “Ah, Ah, oh cramp,” as he clenches his inner thigh.
Angel leans in and tries to help him. “What happened, are you ok?” she asks.

Michael waving his finger, “No, No. I got it. Give me a minute please.”
Angel stands hovering over Michael who is grimacing in fake pain on the bench. People are starting to flock to
see TALK PINOY p.12

Around Our Community

This month's community photos highlight the 50th Annual Barrio Binhi At Ani, Maui Filipino Community



If you have a photograph of a community event, please email to info@filamvoicemaui.com. Please include a short description, your name and contact information.

Fiesta, Fri., May 24, 5–10 p.m. and Sat., May 25, 10 a.m.–10 p.m. at the Center in Kahului, Maui, Hawai‘i



Any Kine Sisig contestant
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Any Kine Sisig contestant
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Any Kine Sisig contestant
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Any Kine Sisig contestant and sponsor Tante Urban
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



2018 Little Miss Barrio Fiesta Zoe Zane
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Crowning the 2018 Little Miss Barrio Fiesta
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Scholarship winners
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



2018 Miss Hawaii Filipina Joy Nina Tabon
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Dance International Production
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Barrio Wear contest winners
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Kaanapali Beach Hotel performers
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Angelina Abapo singing "Katakataka"
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Barrio Fiesta Voice winner and sponsor
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



King's Cathedral youth
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Christine Gambito—HappySlip
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Saturday night winner of Philippine Airlines drawing
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



At HappySlip Live!
PHOTO COURTESY LANI CABANILLA

Ating Kabuhayan

Flores de Mayo & the Santa Cruzan Procession

The Rev. John A.H. Tomosot

In 1970, the month of May was selected as the month to hold the Barrio Fiesta because of the traditional Flores de Mayo festivals, known throughout the Philippines. I know this fact is in the annals of our Barrio Fiesta, the oldest and longest running Filipino Cultural event of its kind in the entire USA. But I say “Why not, of course, we are Filipinos and May is the month for the Barrio Fiesta to take place!” In the Philippines, as is the custom and culture of Catholic countries throughout the world, the entire month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are daily processions and offerings of flowers (*Flores de Mayo*) to the Blessed Virgin Mary and statues and icons of her are festooned with not only these flowers but with garlands, ribbons and other colorful decorations. I say, again, “May is the month, very naturally, for this festival to take place!”

On the last day of the *Flores de Mayo*, a *Santa Cruzan* or Holy Cross Procession is held. The procession is held, with precision and attendant pageantry, to celebrate and honor St. Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, who is commemorated as the discoverer of the “True Cross” or the “Holy Cross,” upon which hung and died our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You will recall that the Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity, thus ending the persecution of the believers throughout the Roman Empire.

Given that the Barrio Fiesta here on Maui, from its very beginning, took on a definite and publicly pronounced spiritual and religious foundation, I think it is good for us to know how our *Santa Cruzan* is held, which is not unlike the Processions held back in our mother country. I know that the hymn *Dios Te Salve* is sung or played during the Procession, as it winds its way through the crowd and up to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Representatives or Princesses of our various constituent churches and groups make up the procession and the line of these representatives and their floral offerings is truly beautiful and a veritable cavalcade of faith, hope and love.

There are many variations throughout the world as to the specific characterizations in a *Santa Cruzan*



Miss Barrio Fiesta 1970 Shirley Evangelista places an offering of flowers in dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

procession but I’ve been told that what is important is that each person who participates is then identified with love and beauty. Ah, our Faith and our spirituality, as Filipinos, are about such love and beauty, don’t you think?

This year was the 50th Anniversary of the Barrio Fiesta and fiesta queens from years past also participated. They, along with the current Princesses radiated love and beauty, reflective of the cultural, social, familial and political we hold dear, as a people, not only of a significant part of Asia but also of a significant part of the Church!

There are titles for each of those who process. We start with “*Divina Pastora*—The Divine Shepherdess.” Mary, as the Mother of God, is also revered as the mother and “Shepherdess and Guardian” of the Divine Shepherd, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then there is “*Reina de las Estrellas*—Queen of the Stars.” Mary is blessed among all women and holds a special place among the stars. Next, we have “*Rosa Mystica*—the Mystical Rose,” recalling, in our faithful fervor, “the most beautiful of God’s creation, the Incarnate Rose,” Mary, especially chosen for God’s garden. You know, the Chapel at Chaminade University in Honolulu is entitled and under the patronage of Mary, The Mystical Rose! Next in the procession is “*Reyna de la Paz*, Queen of Peace.” Mary, the lover of Peace, is also known as the “Queen of Peace.” The Cathedral in Honolulu is entitled and under the patronage of Our Lady of Peace! Mary implores us, not only Filipinos but all peoples, to keep our

see FLORES DE MAYO p.14



These women and young ladies all partook in the Santa Cruzan procession during the 50th Barrio Fiesta, held recently. PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Family Photo

Bagoyo...

from p. 6

ed individual. Since 1983 to the present, these are the community activities that he was involved in: Maui Community Culture and Arts, Maui Homeless Shelter Fundraising Committee, Maui Filipino Community Council (President), Kiwanis Club of Maui (President), Maui Community College Provost Advisory, Hawai’i Community-Based Economic Development, State Dept. of Health Environmental Advisory, Maui Filipino Centennial Celebration Coordinating Council (Chair), Two-Thirds World Network (Chairman of the Board), Board Member of Housing Hawai’i, and Vice Chair, Maui Memorial and Medical Center Foundation. He led the acquisition of the two-acre parcel and fundraising for the development of Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

Professionally, Vince was involved from 1984 through 2003 in the following activities: Member of American Water Works Association, Hawai’i Community-Based Economic Development Board, Member in the Maui County Charter Commission, and past president of the Hawai’i Resort Developers Conference.

From 1991 to 1992, Vince served

one term as a member of the Maui County Council. He became chairman of the Council’s Planning Committee and served on various Council committees such as Public Works, Budget and Finance, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, Agriculture, Land Use and Zoning, Water, and Human Services and Housing.

From 1993 to 2003, Vince was Vice President with Castle & Cooke, Inc. He assisted and directed the strategic planning of luxury master plan resort and residential development on the island of Lāna’i. He directed the revitalization of Lāna’i’s commercial development, which maintain the country town atmosphere that provides a core focal point of visitors, residents, and potential luxury homebuyers. He also oversaw and managed the company’s 560-plus residential rental units. He developed strategic business plans to sell a majority of the rental units to current tenants which produced positive cash flow for the company and more importantly became a model for community revitalization while maintaining the island’s unique character. He was also responsible for developing and implementing strategies and programs to ensure maximum value of the company’s land holdings and optimum utilization of its natural resources

see BAGOYO p.14

Talk Pinoy...

from p. 9

him to see what is going on.

“Sir, do you need medical help?” someone says from a distance.

Wow! I wonder if Michael’s phone is still ok. What do you think? Fortune cookies have many different messages in them. Some are good, some are bad. Nowadays, it seems they are all advice-type of quotes. Have you ever seen the movie “Big” starring Tom Hanks? In a nutshell, Josh meets Zoltar, a fortune telling machine and wishes to be “big” or an adult and the next day, he turns into an adult. Better watch out, what you wish may actually come true. Have you ever had a fortune come true? Tell us at www.facebook.com/filamvoice, we would love to hear your story.

Anyways that’s all I have. Keep an eye out for my column every issue.

I’m Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let’s laugh, let’s listen, and Let’s Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!). 🌟

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts degree 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 is now part of the Travel Club of Saladmaster and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancun, Mexico with the love of her life. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a dealer of Saladmaster here on Maui.





1970 The first Souvenir Program



1971 Miss Maui Filipina Stephanie Sagadraca was the first queen selected under the new format



1972 Miss Maui Filipina Jeanette Tapat's daughter Elaine Paiva won the crown in 1994



1976 Miss Maui Filipina Angela Moniz was the first to travel to the Philippines



1978 Miss Maui Filipina Agnes Macadangdang



1980 Miss Maui Filipina Rochelle Amadeo

Pageant...

from p. 4

light,’ it was really the culmination of the year-long reign and responsibilities that came with being Miss Maui Filipina—of keeping myself in check—in being mindful of the title that the Filipino community had graciously bestowed on me and in honoring my ancestors. The goodwill community activities that I became engaged in drew me much closer to the Filipino community and nurtured in me a deep pride and sense of connection with my Filipino heritage. Reflecting back on my eighteen-year-old self, I later realized how that inspired me and helped me throughout my life to work hard and strive to be successful—in college, in my career, in my marriage and in raising my family.”

Being crowned Miss Maui Filipina also meant participating in the Miss



1982 Miss Maui Filipina Jody Andrade (right) won the Miss Hawaii Filipina pageant and Garnette Duldulao (left) became Miss Maui Filipina

Hawai’i Filipina contest which included the other island queens and for a while, the first runner up from Maui while O’ahu in the early days had more than two representatives.

Since the start of the Miss Hawai’i Filipina contest in 1959, twelve Miss



1991 Miss Maui Filipina Wynne Evangelista



1993 Leah Bolosan as Contestant #3



1997 Miss Maui Filipina Sharon Zalsos

ALL IMAGES ON THIS PAGE ABOVE ARE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Maui Filipinas became Miss Hawai’i Filipina: Jody Andrade (1982), Donna Balag (1985), Shelly Caldito (1986), Monica Lischka (1988), Cierra Rauch (2007), Rhoda Castillo (2008), Celina Hayashi (2009) and the last five in a row: Hulali Brown (2014), Chelsea Guzman (2015), Amelia Laborte (2016), Kimberly Yap (2017), and Joy Nina Tabon (2018).

When multiple entries from O’ahu and Maui were allowed, the Miss Maui Filipina first runner up won the Miss Hawai’i Filipina title on two occasions: 1990—Eva Marie Arconado and 1993—Leah Bolosan.

“One of the biggest highlights of my reign was capturing the statewide title—having the honor to represent our

State and also travel to the Philippines as Miss Hawai’i Filipina,” said Leah Bolosan. “It was definitely a lifetime opportunity to meet the First Lady of the Philippines, government officials and dignitaries, visit my parents’ hometowns ... even watch the Miss Universe Pageant live and much more. To be able to personally experience first-hand the sights, tastes, smells, and meeting the people of my homeland will never be forgotten. Born and raised in Hawai’i, I was able to learn and gain a deeper love and appreciation for my Filipino heritage through my visit to the Philippines.”

Bolosan explained why she entered the Miss Maui Filipina pageant: “I entered the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant for various reasons, which included the possibility to obtain scholarships to further my college education, learn more about my Filipino heritage and culture, and basically it was a competition against myself to strengthen my self-confidence and strive for a goal bigger than myself.”

For Amadeo, she recalls being asked

see PAGEANT p.16

Miss Maui Filipinas

1961 Myrna Malaqui	1978 Agnes Macadangdang	1992 Pamela Burk	2009 Celina Hayashi*
1962 Sylvia Cabanayan	1979 Cherrie Saffrey	1993 Rychelle Gazmen	2009 Mia Livaudais
1963 Patricia Quioco	1980 Rochelle Amadeo	1994 Elaine Paiva	2010 Dibeal Lapid
1964 Carol Galarita	1981 Renee Camara	1995 Lorna Abletes	2011 Shelby Bantilan
1965 Elisea Andrion	1982 Jody Andrade*	1996 Jena Arcangel	2012 Michella Pascua
1966 Iola Caldito	1982 Garnette Duldulao	1997 Sharon Zalsos	2013 Shelly De Leon
1967 Lilia Bio	1983 Elena Marie Carpio	1998 Elisa Paet	2014 Hulali Brown*
1968 Judith Dagdag	1984 Darlene Tabaco	1999 Cheryl Andaya	2014 Jessie Lyn Sagadraca
1969 Evelyn Ramos	1985 Donna Balag	2000 Rowena Dagdag	2015 Chelsea Guzman*
1970 Stephanie Sagadraca	1986 Shelly Caldito*	2001 Melissa Yanos	2015 Casey Salcedo
1971 Joanna DeGracia	1986 Theresa Pulido	2002 Tara Lagat	2016 Amelia Laborte*
1972 Jeanette Tapat	1987 Pamela Mayo	2003 Sherron Lawrence	2016 Ashlyne Rosalin
1973 Colleen Cua	1988 Monica Lischka*	2004 Caroline Sol	2017 Kimberly Yap*
1974 Grace Escrito	1988 Diane Felipe	2005 Angelica Cortez	2017 Gabrielle Gutierrez
1975 Lydia Paet	1989 Colleen Babayan	2006 Chastity Baysa	2018 Joy Nina Tabon*
1976 Angela Moniz	1990 Rosemarie Yu-Cua	2007 Cierra Rauch*	2018 Vanessa Joy Baldos
1977 Amelia Binas	1991 Wynne Evangelista	2007 Rhoda Castillo*	

*Miss Maui Filipina is crowned Miss Hawai’i Filipina

Cayetano...

from p. 8

1996

DEPT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Civil Service Commission

RICARDO MEDINA, 1996, 2000

NORMITA F. FENN, 1998

DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Hawaii Housing Authority

ALLAN LOS BANOS, JR., 1997

Board of Human Services

ANGEL RAMOS, 1995

Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council

REYNALDO D. GRAULTY, 1998

DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Civil Rights Commission

CLAUDIO R. SUYAT, 1997

Advisory Commission on Employment and Human Resources

ELENA M. BUMANGLAG, 1995

Hawaii Labor Relations Board

KATHLEEN RACUYA-MARKRICH, 2000

Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

VICENTE F. AQUINO, 1996

Hawaii Workforce Development Council

CLAYTON E. DELA CRUZ, 2000

DEPT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committee, City and County of Honolulu

TEODORO “TED” SARIBAY, 1995

Natural Area Reserves System Commission

PASCUAL DABIS, 1997, 2001

Commission on Water Resource Management

CLAYTON W. DELA CRUZ, 2002

DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Hawaii Paroling Authority

LANI RAE SUIISO GARCIA, 1997, 2000

DEPT OF TAXATION

Board of Taxation Review, First Taxation District

AMOR B. NINO, 1997

Board of Taxation Review, Second Taxation District

RANDOLPH R. CABANILLA, 1999, 2000

Board of Taxation Review, Fourth Taxation District

GEORGE M. MENOR, 1997, 2001

EDUARDO TOPENIO, JR., 1997, 2001

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

State Highway Safety Council

ORLANDO S. SORIANO, 1995

HERNANDO R. TAN, 1999

Commission on Transportation

see CAYETANO next page



The Santa Cruzan procession ends lining the stage at the 50th Barrio Fiesta.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Flores de Mayo...

eyes and our focus on God so that the world can have and be at peace. The next title is "Reyna de los Profetas—Queen of Prophets." This is a reminder that the prophets of the Old Testament, in their being among God's People in their time, looked ahead to the coming of the Messiah. For us, Mary, the Mother God, the Messiah, is Queen for all time.

The next title is a popular one among the faithful throughout the world. It is "Reyna del Cielo—Queen of Heaven." In the faithful understanding of our belief, we know that Mary's Son, Jesus Christ, is the King of Heaven and the Universe. So by faith we know Mary to be the "Queen of Heaven." Next in line is "Reyna de las Virgines—Queen of Virgins." In the reality and enduring, faithful legacy of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we know she inspires all young women amongst us and honors, through our faithfulness, who the beautiful, young and assured women in our families and in our communities. Next, we have what is perhaps the patronal and titular title of this festival and it is "Reyna de las Flores—Queen of Flowers." Throughout the Catholic world, our Blessed Mother is honored and crowed with beautiful, fragrant and colorful flowers each year, during the month of May.

Next in line, is the title of "Reyna Abogada—the Defender of the Poor and the Oppressed." You and I, in our lives of faith, often implore the intercession of Mary, as we know her to be not only "mother" but as the "protector" of the poor, the oppressed, downtrodden; all those who are in need of God's grace, mercy and love. Mary, in the next title of the procession is "Reyna Justicia—Queen Justice." As the Mother of God, Mary is the very personification of justice, truth and understanding and all of this, under her Son, Jesus who, as the second person of the Holy Trinity, is the God of Justice and Truth.

The next three titles are, perhaps, what our festival represents for and

among us, "the three greatest and lasting things," and each being a theological virtue, i.e. Faith, Hope and Love. These titles are "Reyna Fe," "Reyna Esperanza" and "Reyna Caridad." Caridad actually means Charity, which is love, in all our actions. Concluding the titles in the procession is "Reyna Elena—Queen Helen," who found the True Cross, relics of which are still venerated in several churches throughout the Catholic world. St. Helena certainly knew of and believed in Jesus and His mother, Mary. One final note, the Greek Orthodox Church in Honolulu is entitled and under the patronage of Saints Helena and Constantine.

It is fitting, *kababayan*, that our Barrio Fiesta, was founded upon and continues to be celebrated with a spiritual, religious and faith-filled foundation. May these titles, which we identify as realities that the Blessed Virgin Mary represents for us, inspire and motivate us, as we plan for the 51st Annual Barrio Fiesta. "Pray for us O Holy Mother of God." ✨



Rev. John A. Hau'oli Tomosot 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 retired from the civil service as the Maui County Executive on Aging. In March 2019, Tomoso retired as the Executive Director of the non-profit Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., after a social work career that spanned 43 years of practice. His wife Susan recently retired as a 7th grade Language Arts Teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School.

Bagoyo...

from p. 12

source asset, water. He developed a long-term water and wastewater capital improvement programs and initiated and developed a world-award winning wastewater treatment plant that utilizes hyacinths treatment processes. The company became a leader on wastewater reuse.

Since 2004, Vince has been the president and owner of V. Bagoyo Development Group, LLC. He is in-



Family Photo

involved in real estate development consulting and development, project analysis and management and involved in all aspects of land use entitlement processes including but not limited to preparation of projects' environmental assessment, zoning and state land use boundary designations and Special Management Area (SMA) Permit applications. He specializes in workforce housing projects.

Although Vince is a very busy man, he enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren going hiking, hunting, visiting national parks and museums, and writing whenever he can. He is also a former licensed Foster Parent.

This writer had a privilege in asking Vince's father, Vincent Bagoyo, Sr. his personal reflection before his passing. This is what he shared: "Love, respect, and adore God. Know and love God. Be patient, be humble, and be forgiving. Remember that God is the best judge. Help the less

fortunate. Be understanding."

This writer also asked Vince Bagoyo, Jr. to share his personal reflection: "My greatest joy of life is when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and to faithfully follow Him according to His perfect will. I'm a Co-founder and the Chairman of the Board of Two-Thirds World Network (TTWN), a Christian based non-profit organization, with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption under the IRS. TTWN's primary purpose is to share the Good News and the Gospel through missions in Southeast Asia

according to the biblical principles found in the Great Commission in Matthew Chapter 28:18-20. From a sinner to a transformed life by the Grace of God, my family and I have been blessed with much joy and love, and kindness by our Lord and by our community friends. Being a believer—we never arrive, but aspire to be

a better person everyday in the likeness of Christ."

It is quite amazing that both father and son, from different generations, have very similar personal reflections. ✨

Lucy Peros is a retired school teacher. She taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both her parents, Elpidio Cabalo and Alejandra Cabalo of Hāli'imaile worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Her Dad was a 1946 Sakada. She is now enjoying retirement. She now has time to join the other seniors at the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week, attend the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa, and joins the other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



Cayetano...

from p. 13

RUDY MIRANDA, 1999
JAMES C. PACOPAC, 2002

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i
JOSEPH F. BLANCO, 1996

Board of Directors, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i
EUGENE N. TIWANAK, 2001

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

Board of Registration, Island of O'ahu
HERMAN T. ANDAYA, JR., 1998, 1999

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
Hawai'i Library

Advisory Commission

ANTONIA R. LAMBAYAN, 1995
Kaua'i Library Advisory Commission
FEDERICO R. CUARESMA, 1995
JESUS S. GUIRAO, 1996

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

AMY AGBAYANI, 2000 ✨



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran serves as the State Senator for Central Maui. Before marrying Kallie Keith, his name was Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran.



Save the date
Aug. 3, 2019
Three Chefs & A Grammy
Binhi At Ani
Fundraiser for Renovations

Kwento



Kwentuhan

Filipino Food Week

Liza of “A Maui Blog”

Filipino Food Week Hawai'i was recently celebrated from June 9 through 15. In connection with this, I started thinking about Filipino food and started to wonder what ingredients Filipinos usually use in their dishes that makes it uniquely delicious. Let's talk story about this. I'll share a few that I know and you can add to it too.

1. VINEGAR - There are many kinds of vinegar. The most commonly used variety is that of coconut vinegar. We call it *suka*. It is usually paired (mixed) with *patis* as a sauce, and it's good dipping sauce for fried fish. Vinegar is used in *paksiw*, *adobo*, *kinilaw*.
2. SAMPALOC - Also known as tamarind, this tart and tangy fruit is used primarily in *sinigang*, a sour-savory stew, and candies. It is also sold as a paste to add to marinades. Ok, now I am craving for *Sinigang na Hipon*!
3. KETCHUP - Although we also use tomato catsup in some dishes, it is common among Filipinos to use the Banana Ketchup. This banana ketchup is made of bananas, sugar vinegar (oh there's that vinegar again) and spices. The famous Filipino Spaghetti usually has a lot of banana ketchup mixed in the sauce.
4. BAGOONG - the most common form of *bagoong* is known as Shrimp Paste here in the United States. However, there is another form of *bagoong* which is made of fish. Both type of *bagoong* have that funky smell and both are salty. The unique taste of *bagoong* enhances some of the fa-

vorite dishes such as *Pinakbet* and *Binagoongang Baboy*.

5. PATIS - *Patis* is fish sauce. This too has a funky smell. As mentioned earlier, this is usually paired with vinegar for a sauce. It is common to add *patis* on many dishes, particularly on soup and stews.
6. TOYO - Here on Maui we call Soy Sauce, *shoyu* but in the Philippines we call it *Toyo*. The famous Filipino Dish with *toyo* is *Adobo*. *Adobo* is one of the favorite Filipino dishes of non-Filipinos. Here on Maui, even the other ethnic groups like eating *Adobo*.
7. GATA - *Gata* is coconut milk. When I was growing up, we never used canned coconut milk. We only used the freshly squeezed one, freshly squeezed from freshly grated coconuts. That's why it is so delicious! These days we have the convenience of using canned coconut milk. It's used on *Ginaataan bilobilo*, *Kakanin*, and there is a version of *Pinakbet* with *gata*.
8. CALAMANSI - *Pancit* is not complete without a sprinkle of freshly squeezed *calamansi*. Aside from adding flavor like a lime, *calamansi* also has many uses, like in juices and marinades. The famous beef steak version of Filipinos is called *Bistek* and when my mom used to marinate the beef for it, it usually was with *toyo* and *calamansi*.

Now I really am super hungry! Did I miss any ingredients that is common to the Filipino dishes? Of



Gata
PHOTO COURTESY FILIPINO FOODWEEK



course there are also the basics like garlic and onion. We like to sauté it and oh the smell is so good!

And the sugar we should not forget the sugar!

See you in our next Kwento-Kwentuhan! A hui hou! ✨

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 Catch-

er; 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.



Filipino Ingredients
PHOTO COURTESY FILIPINO FOODWEEK



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Appointments on Maui or O'ahu



2018 contestants having fun during rehearsal
PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA JOY BALDOS



School supply donation at Saoang Elementary School in San Juan, Ilocos Sur.
PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA JOY BALDOS

Pageant...

from p. 13

by Pauline Agres: “I was just out of high school in 1979 and early in the summer I received a phone call from a woman who introduced herself as Pauline Agres. She asked to visit me and my parents to talk about the ‘Miss Maui Filipina Pageant,’ which by the way up until that day of the phone call I had never heard about. After a visit from Mrs. Agres and Mrs. Cabebe who accompanied her, I asked my parents what they thought and the response was ‘It’s up to you.’ So not really knowing what to do I chose to enter because I thought it would be a nice diversion after graduation and it would be an interesting challenge for myself. When you’re that young, you’re always up for a challenge.”

For Rowena Dagdag, the challenge was actually a dare: “My friends and I had just graduated from college and went out one evening to celebrate our graduations, when the subject of pageants came up. A dare emerged from the conversation and the question was raised, ‘Who among us has the audacity to be a contestant in the Miss Maui Filipina pageant?’ So I slapped my hand on the table and said, ‘Shoots ... Chance um! and the rest is history.’”

For Macadangdang, it was the history of the *Sakadas* and her desire to bring pride to her parents as her two older sisters had decided against running: “The foremost reason why I entered the pageant was because of family—as the youngest of three daughters, I witnessed my parents, Pedro and Remigia Macadangdang, trying to encourage my two older sisters to run for Miss Maui Filipina and for one reason or another, both of my older sisters decided not to. After seeing this for several years until I became of ‘age,’ I realized just how much it meant to my parents and I didn’t want nor did I have the heart to disappoint them. My parents were very hard-working and sacrificed much to support my sisters and me in our educational endeavors. I felt that if this was that important to them, then I would do it—for them—regardless of how terrified I actually was of doing it.”

Macadangdang, who was born and raised on Maui, grew up immersed in her Filipino culture and Maui’s Filipino community. “With the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir, I was fortunate to be exposed to and able to learn more about my rich Filipino heritage from an early age of seven. The Maui Filipino Community Council also gave me the opportunity to serve as a youth representative on the Council

when I was in high school. Through these unique experiences during my formative years, I developed a deep respect for Filipino folk dance, song and music all through the kindness, love and support of Father Justo and Manang Nancy Andres, and Nana Aggie Cabebe. This also fostered in me a deep sense of pride and belonging to the Filipino community,” said Macadangdang whose parents emigrated from the Philippines to work on the plantations during the *Sakada* era. “So when the time came that I became eligible to enter (at age 18), it seemed like a natural next step, a wonderful opportunity to reciprocate—a way to give back to those that had done so much for me—my parents, Father Andres & Manang Nancy, Nana Aggie and so many others that supported me growing up and a way to help raise funds for the Filipino community to perpetuate our cultural heritage.”

But agreeing to be a participant was just the beginning. “Now, when I saw the competition though, that was another story. I felt I didn’t have what it takes to compete. The other girls were beautiful, a little older and more seasoned. They were skinny and were better educated. I on the other hand was just finishing high school!” recalls Zalsos. “But to my lucky stars, the committee was a dream team. They worked hard to prepare each of us contestants for the big competition. They were strict, informative, passionate. They were all determined to equip each contestant with the necessary tools for a successful performance. Basically, they leveled the playing field as best as they could. The rest was up to each individual contestant. In the spirit of competition, I felt the need to seek out further guidance and coaching—a quality I kept after that pageant. I sought the help of a coach, who could help tweak my talent, interview and poise. When I finally found them (three fairy godmothers), they had two weeks to work with me before the competition. One in particular stood out and took on the task to help me—Ms. Vanessa Medeiros. It was as if the heavens opened and she was sent just for me. Of course, having been the coach of other winning Miss Maui Filipinas and a Miss Hawai’i Filipina helped boost my confidence that I was in very good hands. She spoke and I listened. The rest is history. Much to my pleasant surprise, I was blessed to

win.”

Bolosan spoke of how the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant is one of the longest-running pageants in the State of Hawai’i. “More than just a beauty pageant, the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant provides the opportunity for young Filipinas to obtain scholarships to further their college education, learn more about their Filipino heritage and culture, build self-confidence, connect and gain a network of mentors, friendships, and contacts to access and depend on for assistance. It also provides a platform to allow the participants to utilize their gifts and talents to give back and serve their community. I am grateful for the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant organization for continuing to invest in our young Filipinas allowing them to succeed in their desired ambitions and aspirations.”

For Amadeo, it was a cultural awakening experience: “The Miss Maui Filipina pageant for me was a stepping stone that led me toward a cultural heritage identity. The pageant should continue to be stepping stones for every young Filipino woman who is trying to figure this life out and to help them make right choices in their life not only for themselves but for their family and community. The pageant process alone teaches self-confidence, patience, responsibility, respect, trust and humility. Those are not characteristics that can be learned from a book.”

Rowena Dagdag affirmed the important role of Filipino culture in the pageant: “My mother was Miss Maui Filipina 1968, so participation in the pageant is somewhat a tradition in my family. The pageant format has changed over the years but what sets the Miss Maui Filipina pageant apart from other pageants is the Filipino culture. Michelle Santos has been such an amazing pageant coordinator over the years, making sure that the Miss Filipina traditions of the past are continued and that the opening number, entertainment, discussion topics are all based on our culture. The pageant provides young Filipino women an opportunity to learn more about their family relationships, Filipino culture (traditions, art, geography, celebrations, history, values), and to refine their skills. I can’t think of any other experience on Maui that provides all of that.”

In our multiethnic society, perpetuating our Filipino culture is important and the Miss Maui Filipina pageant is

one such vehicle, according to Macadangdang. “It’s important because it engages the community and provides an opportunity to perpetuate our culture for the benefit of our future generations. It enables our youth to learn more about their Filipino heritage, to strengthen their ties to their culture and foster pride in our ethnicity. I experienced this first-hand with my daughter, Celina Macadangdang Hayashi. I left the decision to run entirely up to her. With her grandmother’s (Remigia Macadangdang) encouragement and support, she decided to run when she turned eighteen. As a third generation Filipina, I saw her love, respect, appreciation and pride for her Filipino heritage expand and grow tremendously through this experience. Her sense of self became more deeply rooted and her life purpose more clear. The pageant experience transformed her positively in building character and confidence. I believe it helped her in her personal endeavors as evidenced by her graduation from medical school this year and becoming a medical doctor.”

(There are three sets of mother-daughter Miss Maui Filipinas: Judith Dagdag (1968) and Rowena Dagdag (2000); Jeanette Tapat (1972) and Elaine Paiva (1994); and Agnes Macadangdang (1978) and Celina Hayashi (2009).)

Bolosan reminded the three contestants they were already winners: “No matter whether or not you garner the title of Miss Maui Filipina, you are already a winner. Through the pageant process, you will learn more about yourself, grow stronger as an individual, doors will be opened to you to be an integral contributor to your community and in your future career. Be bold, be fearless, be yourself—you should be proud of who you are, your accomplishments, and continue to shoot for your dreams—for anything is possible.”

Indeed, **Be Empowered! ✨**
Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. He has been practicing law for 35 years (since 1983). Aside from having a cousin win the Miss Maui Filipina contest (Wynne Evangelista in 1991), his only participation in the Miss Maui Filipina pageant was as an entertainer (he played Angklung with the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir during the 1973 Miss Maui Filipina pageant, danced A La Jota and was a bamboo pounder for Singkil as a member of the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir and Dance Troupe during the 1976 Miss Maui Filipina pageant).



Miss Maui Filipina 2015
Chelsea Guzman became
Miss Hawai’i Filipina 2015