



## A Gift for the Season

This “Angel” gave reason to bring loved ones together.

Page 1



## New Year Forecast

What's important to you this coming New Year 2020?

Page 1



## A New Face in Sakada Offspring

This young lady is a new whirlwind force in our Filipino community.

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# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

December 2019 • Vol 3 No 12 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

## inside



A poignant change for 2020.

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Cayetano retrospective comes to a close.

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A fun time was had by all who attended.

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# The Greatest Gift of All

Vanessa Joy Domingo | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY VANESSA JOY DOMINGO



One of the two classrooms of first graders that received backpacks and school supplies. Mark and I are with Marjorie M. Rabaja, principal of Amarosa Elementary School.

I walk off the plane and onto the jet way—greeted with Christmas ornaments and lights, and ribbons and bells galore. It's November 11th and it is already Christmas in the Philippines. I smile at the holiday cheer, get through customs and head to the baggage claim area of the

Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. Singers dressed in green velvet, joined by violin players sing their hearts out—*Pasko! Pasko! Pasko na naman muli. Tanging araw na ating pinakamimithi* ... Although there were no carolers—Laoag International Airport was also

decked out in holiday décor—colors of green, red, and gold shimmering against its brick walls and columns.

The Christmas season is indeed the season many Filipinos anticipate throughout the world. I remember throughout my childhood that the greatest time of the year

would be when the Christmas tree was up. My sister Brenda and I would stare in awe at the blinking lights of the tree—and wait to hear each Christmas song play. Later, it would be the two of us watching our younger sister Allison be captivated by the tree's

see GREATEST GIFT p.3

FREE

## Hopes, Dreams, Challenges and Resolutions for the New Year

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

At the stroke of midnight on December 31, amidst the fireworks and after all the *sashimi* and *suman* have been devoured, folks will be toasting their champagne glasses and bel-  
lowing Happy New Year!

For many, the New Year

represents a new beginning; hopes and dreams; and an opportunity to make a resolution. For businesses, the New Year represents opportunities and challenges.

“My hopes and dreams may be different from everybody,”

see NEW YEAR p.2

“AND THIS IS 2020 ...”





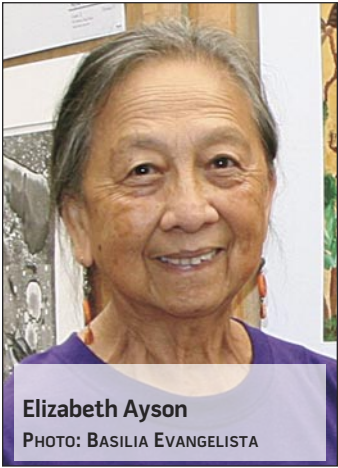
**Nora Cabanilla-Takushi**  
PHOTO COURTESY  
NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI



**Marilyn Oura**  
PHOTO: RYAN PIROS



**Sharon Zalsos Banaag**  
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



**Elizabeth Ayson**  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Melen Magbual Agcolicol**  
PHOTO: DJ METZLER



**Romeo Guzman**  
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



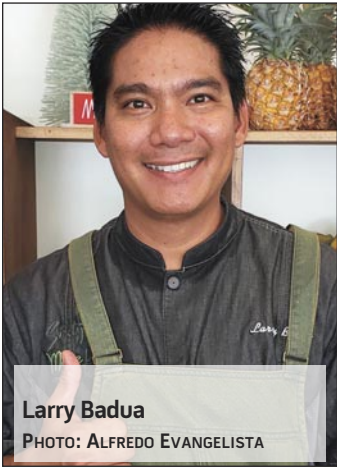
**Esmeralda "Essie" Arruiza**  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Mary Grace Basig**  
PHOTO: RACHEL ANGELA DESIGNS



**Joey Macadangdang**  
PHOTO COURTESY  
JOEY MACADANGDANG



**Larry Badua**  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## New Year ...

from p. 1

said Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, president of Binhi at Ani. "My hope is for all the unfortunate children to find good families and be well-taken care of. My dreams are that my children will be able to have good health and continue to follow their dreams and be able to

share their love of God to everyone."

"Good health, financial stability, strong family ties, and a fulfilling loving relationship are my hopes and dreams," said Marilyn Oura, the current president of the Maui Filipino Community Council. "And I hope the Council will continue to be successful under the new president Emerita Cortez."

"I hope for better health and pros-

perity for our family," said Sharon Zalsos Banaag, the newly installed president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. "To be healthy," echoed Michelle Santos, secretary of Binhi at Ani.

Health appears to be a top priority for many members of Maui's Filipino community. "At the top of the list is continued good health. Without health, little else is feasible," said Elizabeth Ayson, a past president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, one of the seventeen past presidents of the Maui Filipino Chamber who were recently honored during the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Maui Filipino Chamber. Melen Magbual Agcolicol, also a past president of the Maui Filipino Chamber and a business owner, hopes that "my family will always stay healthy and our family businesses will continue to be successful." Romeo Guzman, owner of RG Electric and Vice President of Binhi at Ani hopes for a "better and prosperous year 2020." Florante Garcia, a past president of Binhi at Ani, hopes to "have multiple streams of income and grow to sustain my lifestyle."

Closer family relationships is also high on the list. "Another high hope is to have more time with my family, all extremely active and engaged in life. My dream is for the entire clan to gather in reunion, to reconnect our strong bonds and meet newest additions," said Ayson. Essie Arruiza, a member of the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors agreed and hopes for "more bonding with family members."

Mario Arruiza, her husband says "I hope to be a better me" while Elmer Tolentino, the Purchasing Manager of Westin Maui says "I hope to be a better person as I am thinking of retiring next year."

Mary Basig, 2019 Miss Maui Filipina, says "I am living proof that dreams still do come true even when life takes unexpected turns and I hope to be a great role model for the community to show just that. I dream to impact and change lives as others have done for me."

Interestingly, none of those inter-

viewed hoped for world peace. Is it a sign of the political climate where folks do not believe that world peace can be achieved?

New Year's is also a time when folks make resolutions, many similar to their hopes and dreams. "To be in a better health, more traveling with family, and to be rich and prosperous," said Essie Arruiza. Her husband Mario resolved to be "a better me and better health and wealth." Lani Cabanilla aspires "To read more books—at least ten to fifteen; to commit to healthy choices and maintain my weight."

Health is a hot topic for resolutions. Garcia resolves "to stay fit and healthy and have more time to work out." Banaag strives for a "healthier life style and stronger finish for 2020" while Agcolicol resolves "To start my diet ... as always the same every year!"

Community service is another subject for resolutions. Cabanilla resolved "to volunteer more" while Cabanilla-Takushi said "I told my husband that I would slow down in my community service and focus on our family and health." Guzman resolves to have a "better life and happy life with my family and the community."

For some, resolutions are not to be. "I don't believe in resolutions because I never stick to it," explained Santos. "Past resolutions have not proven workable, often they're in the realm of something out of reach," said Ayson.

For those in business, each year is a constant challenge, especially small business owners. There's even a day for small business that's wedged after Black Friday and before Cyber Monday: Small Business Saturday—the Saturday after Thanksgiving. On Maui, especially for Maui's small business community, a brief look at Filipino businesses especially in the food business shows the growth and challenges facing businesses.

On Lower Main Street in Wailuku, a number of businesses have changed hands.

At the location that previously housed Minit Stop and briefly, Traje Farms, Rowena Tumacder Mariano

see NEW YEAR p.4



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Burnahm Park at night, while they work on finishing the Christmas Display.

# Greatest Gift ...

from p. 1

holiday spell. My parents would have the tree set up as early as late October. As the years passed and as we grew older, our love for the Christmas season never faltered.

My sister Brenda and I walk into Robinsons Place—Ilocos in San Nicolas. It had been at least 10 years since we were in the Philippines together. The mall is filled with shoppers touting the items of their shopping spree. We find Christmas décor everywhere throughout the mall and take our souvenir photo at one of the mall’s well-known photo op stops. We laugh as we try on some of the holiday headwear at the Expressions craft store on the second floor. There are fun glasses with reindeer antlers attached. Matching pairs that don Santa Claus on one side and a Christmas tree on the other. This shop has placed Christmas décor garlands, lights, and wrapping paper out front coaxing customers into the Christmas spirit.

A few days later—my husband and I ride the bus to Baguio City. The bus jostles as it bustles through the winding roads, the cold air and foggy mist. The crisp air touches my face. For the next two days, Baguio Holiday Villas becomes our home. The bright display of the Christmas tree shines against the lobby’s orange walls. A toddler of

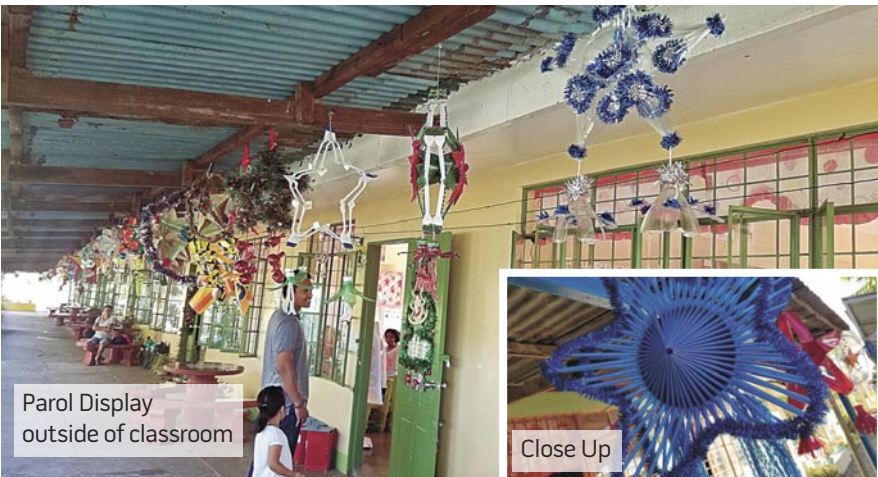
a few guests walks over, entranced by the décor. We find our way to visiting Baguio’s Tree Top Adventure Park and take a cable ride into its canopy—not before taking our silly Christmas photo, of course. In the evening, we find ourselves at the night market. Workers are hard at work, turning Burnham Park into a winter wonderland. Garlands of lights hang from the trees. On our way home, the bus takes a rest stop at the Sisters Royal Bibingka in Bantay. The bake shop is also covered in festive décor. The lights shining brightly against the dark night remind me of feeling at home, as the cashier places the warm box of *bibingka* in my hands. Although I love to eat, we’re gifting this for our grandma and aunt for taking care of us during our stay.

On the sunnier days of our trip, Christmas was evident throughout Ilocos Sur. San Juan proudly displays a tall Christmas tree next to their Municipal Hall. The Vigan *tindaan* had displays of Christmas *parols*, all different colors and different types. I asked one of the vendors how long she had been selling these. She replies shyly saying “Forever. I can’t remember how long.” Her weathered hands bring out another load of *parols* to display.

In the spirit of gift giving, Mark and I decide to help his father’s elementary school by purchasing a printer for the teachers and students to use. We arrive at Amarosa Elementary School. Class is in session. The principal kindly takes us on a tour of the campus. The students have made *parols* out of recycled items. Straws, spoons, bottle caps, plastic bottles, all shaped to create a star. So creative and such great craftsmanship from these growing minds. The children that received the backpacks from earlier this summer, sing us Barney’s “I love you, you love me” song to thank us for their school supplies. No words could explain how the experience touched our hearts.

I travelled to the Philippines because of my aunt’s passing. Despite missing her and feeling saddened by this unfortunate event—I couldn’t help but feel we were all surrounded by her love. She loved celebrating and being with family. Her warm spirit

see GREATEST GIFT p.14



Philippine Airlines worker Jonathan Bumanglag showing Christmas Spirit at the Laoag International Airport



## AWARD-WINNING CARDIAC & STROKE CARE ON MAUI

Maui Memorial Medical Center was recently awarded the highest and most honors in the state by American Heart Association and featured in U.S. News & World Report “Best Hospitals 2019” for Gold Plus Quality Achievement and Honor Roll awards for stroke and heart failure care.

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For more information, please visit [mauihealthsystem.org](http://mauihealthsystem.org).

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## From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban  
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In late November and early December, Telly and I traveled to the Philippines. We traveled to our home province of Pangasinan to spend time with family and for Telly to attend her school reunion from Caboloan Community High School in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

We hosted Telly's section get together (there are three sections with about 48 in each section) and the classes of 1968, 1969, 1970



Tante & Telly Urban  
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA

**"We're looking forward to the New Year which always represents a new beginning and new challenges."**

and 1971 gathered for a school reunion. There were two days of events followed by the three-day town fiesta which featured *Balikbayan* Night, Farmers Night, Gay Night and a formal dance with a battle of the bands just as in the Lawrence Welk mold.

It was a fun time to be in the Philippines during the Christmas season. Christmas in the Philippines is always a fun time and our *pasalubong* list includes American products and alcohol, including our new favorite, Screwball—a

peanut butter whiskey.

We're looking forward to the New Year which always represents a new beginning and new challenges. For Telly and me, we'll be spending a lot of time on the Big Island and I will be taking a leave of absence from my role as President and Editor of The *Fil-Am Voice* as I will be running for Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

Vince Bagoyo, Jr. will take over as Editor and President while Alfredo Evangelista continues as Assistant Editor. The rest of the *Fil-Am Voice* team will remain intact. We hope you will continue to read and support The *Fil-Am Voice*.

All of us at The *Fil-Am Voice* wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all of you receive more blessings of good health and wealth in 2020! ✨

TANTE URBAN | EDITOR



Will Jollibee at Maui Market Place be open by the printing of this issue of the *Fil-Am Voice*. Inquiring minds and prognosticators for 2020 want to know!

PHOTO: JR "KALANI" REGALADO

## New Year ...

from p. 2

and her husband Angelo recently opened Asian Mart & Fast Food. Further along Lower Main, Song Solagross, the partner of former Cupie's owner Bernard Paet, took over Tokyo Tei. (For over a year, Cupie's has been under the ownership of Ron Daniels and his partner Em Escopete Mennel.) At the corner of Lower Main Street and Mill Street, Z-Man's Kitchen owned by Zaldifer Pascua is now shuttered.

Also on Lower Main Street, Randy Cruz, owner of Randy's Catering, has leased his space to Felix Sanchez of Sanchez Variety Store. Cruz renovated the old Paukūkalo Store site on Waiehu Beach Road and Randy's Catering is now providing hot food items to Wailuku Seafood Center, LLP, owned by May-Anne Alibin and her husband Exsor. (Further down Waiehu Beach Road, Poke Hale Grindz, owned by Anthony Vargas, Jr. is now closed.)

Back to Lower Main Street—Rosie's Cantina is no longer owned by Andrew Callo. Callo recently opened Kelly's Superette Inc. in Kahului Shopping Center at the site of the old Ah Fook's Market and briefly, Maui Style Market. Just a few stores down, Ichiban the Restaurant is now owned by Zaida Agsalog Juan, of Juan's Kitchen fame. Juan's Kitchen used to be located at 62 Market Street in Wailuku (at the prior site of Café O'Lei and briefly Café Central and the recently opened 62 Marcket Restaurant in which Chef Larry Badua is a part owner with Chef Marc McDowell). A couple blocks down, for over a year, Four Sisters Catering has been headquartered at the corner of Vineyard Street and Central Avenue.

If you venture to Queen Ka'ahu-manu Center, Originz Maui—which now features a Kamayan Night—owned by Heizel Buted Allado-Bio has taken over the space previously occupied by Vidad's. (Allado-Bio's sibling owns Da Shrimp Hale in Maui Mall, which opened about three years ago.)

Over on the westside, Chef Jojo Vasquez and his partner opened Fond Restaurant in Nāpili Village—just a few doors away from Chef Joey Macadangdang's second restaurant Joey's Kitchen Nāpili. In the spring of 2020, Macadangdang expects to open his third restaurant named MACADANGDANG, which will be located at the Fairway Shops.

And in Wailea, Chef Sheldon Simeon recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of his restaurant Lineage. Simeon owns Tin Roof on Dairy Road in Kahului.

And yes, just up Dairy Road in Maui Marketplace, Jollibee's is set to open any day (in the space previously occupied by Bank of Hawai'i and right across from the McDonald's owned by Erlinda Rosario and her son Grelyn).

Whew! For Filipino food businesses, there's been a lot of changes in 2019 and more challenges for 2020.

Oh yeah, we haven't talked about the last edition of *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* which opens on December 20 or about the upcoming 2020 presidential elections!

For the *Fil-Am Voice*, 2020 will be the start of our fourth year in bringing you news, features and events highlighting Maui's Filipino community. We're happy to be here and we hope for your continued support.

May the New Year bring blessings to all of you. *Hau'oli Makahiki Hou. Naragsak a Baro nga Tawenyo amin!*

(FADE OUT TO BARBARA WALTERS SAYING ... AND THIS IS 2020 ...) ✨

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 36 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.



**LOCATION**  
24 Central Avenue  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i  
USA 96793

**CONTACT**  
Tel: (808) 242-8100  
Email:  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**INTERNET**  
Web:  
www.filamvoicemaui.com  
Facebook:  
facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui

**Editor • Publisher**  
Tante Urban  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**Asst. Editor • Co-Publisher**  
Alfredo G. Evangelista  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**Art Director • Co-Publisher**  
Lawrence Pascua  
graphics@filamvoicemaui.com

**Acct Executive • Co-Publisher**  
Sharon Zalsos Banaag  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**Co-Publisher**  
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**Co-Publisher**  
Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

**Contributing Writers**  
Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.  
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
Sharon Zalsos Banaag  
Dulce K. Butay  
Vanessa Joy Domingo  
Alfredo G. Evangelista  
Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Lawrence Pascua  
Lucy Peros  
Liza Pierce  
John Tomoso  
Tante Urban

**Distribution Manager**  
Paul Manzano

**Web Master**  
Nick Ponte

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Vanessa Domingo



Agapito Villalon

# Vanessa Joy Viloría Baldos Domingo

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

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY VANESSA JOY DOMINGO

A budding writer is in our midst. She is our youngest and newest member of our staff of the *Fil-Am Voice*. She is none other than Vanessa Joy Viloría Baldos Domingo, a *Sakada* Offspring. She is also a newlywed, married to the love of her life, Mark Domingo. They have two children—step children to Vanessa—Jarren and Jasmine Domingo. So far, she has been writing on a variety of topics.

Vanessa was born on March 10, 1991 in Wailuku. She is the daughter of Juvy Viloría Baldos from San Juan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines and Danilo Baldos from Castellejos, Zambales, Philippines. She has two sisters Brenda Lyn Baldos and Allison Jane Baldos.

Vanessa and Mark reside in Kahului. She attended Kahului Elementary, Maui Waena Intermediate School, Maui High School, University of Miami, and the University of Hawai’i Maui College.

When Vanessa was in High School, she was very involved with her school activities. The following are just some of the activities that she participated in: 2008–2009 Maui High School Math League, Maui High School Japanese Club, Maui High School Key Club, Maui High School Peer Mediation Group and Student Liaison and Coordinator (Senior Project). 2007–2009 Maui High Marching Band (2008–2009) as a Section Leader, 2005–2009 Maui High School Symphonic Band (2008–2009 secretary), 2005–2006 Maui High School Concert Band, and 2005–2009 Maui District High School Honor Band.

From 2005–2009, Vanessa was very active with HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) in which she was Maui High HOSA Reporter in

2007–2008. She was the Hawai’i State HOSA Vice President 2008–2009. Vanessa was also a member of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council 2005–2006.

In addition, Vanessa was active in the High School Student Government in which she was a Freshman Representative 2005–2006 and 2nd Executive Vice President 2007–2008.

Such a well-rounded individual, Vanessa was also involved in the community from 2005–2009 as Hale Makua Long Term Care Center Volunteer, Maui Arts and Cultural Center Student Usher/Volunteer, Mediation Services of Maui Volunteers, Basic Faith Formation of Christ The King Parish, Maui Adult Day Care Center Volunteer, Dance International Production, Kahului Public Library Volunteer and Ho’omau Music Festival Volunteer.

Vanessa received many awards throughout her High School Days. She was in the Honor Roll and Principal’s List. She received the Maui District High School Honor Band Member Award of Honor, National History Day District Competitor Finalist Award, DOE Comprehensive Health Calendar Winner. Under HOSA, she received Leadership award, Scholarship Awards, extemporaneous Health Poster Competition (all levels) award and Medical Reading Competition award (all levels).

Even when she was attending the University of Miami, Vanessa was also involved in the University activities such as: University of Miami Homecoming Committee, Filipino Student Association Dance Captain, Hui Aloha (Hawai’i Club President), Council of International Organization, and Asian-see VANESSA JOY next page



Baldos-Domingo Family. Top Row: Mark & Vanessa. Bottom Row: Jarren and Jasmine



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Science for a better life





2018 Miss Maui Filipina  
PHOTO: JULIO BAYEZ

# Vanessa Joy ...

from p. 5

American Students Association. However, because of family responsibilities, Vanessa moved back home to Maui after two years at the University of Miami. She is currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration at University of Hawai'i Maui College.

Currently here on Maui, Vanessa is involved with Realtors Association of Maui, Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant, Read Aloud America, and Maui High School Foundation.

In the past, Vanessa was employed at various establishments such as Of-



Wedding Photo

ficeMax Impress, Dr. Colleen Inouye/Dr. Frank Baum office as a medical assistant, Resort Host at Andaz Maui at the Wailea Resort, Office Assistant II for County of Maui—Department of Parks and Recreation and Shearwater Tavern Hostess. At present she is a Realtor Associate with Cold-

well Banker Island Properties. She is also a very fine Graphic Designer.

Vanessa loves to travel. She traveled throughout the United States as well as the Philippines. She enjoys drawing, graphic designing, Reading, Writing, Dancing, Aerial Arts and Gym.

In 2009, Vanessa ran for the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant. She placed 2nd Runner Up. Ten years later, she ran again and placed 1st Runner Up. However, Joy Tabon who won as Miss Maui Filipina won the State Pageant and became Miss Hawai'i Filipina. Therefore, since Vanessa was 1st Runner Up, she succeeded Joy Tabon and was crowned as the new Miss Maui Filipina. Running for Miss Maui Filipina was different the second time around according to Vanessa. She felt

that since she was older and more mature than the first time that she ran, she had a greater appreciation for her culture and more focused on the tasks that she had to complete. Her advice to future contestants is to stay focused and just give it their best.

As for Vanessa's *Sakada* Connection, she shared as much as she could find out about her great grandfather from her mother's side of the family. Her great grandfather was Agapito Verracion Villalon. He was born on May 12, 1888 and died in November 10, 1973. Agapito was a widower but he got re-married. His first wife was Dorotcha Villalon. His second wife was Emiteria Tolete Villalon. They had a daughter named Brigida, that was Vanessa's maternal Grandmother.

see VANESSA JOY p.10

# Joey's Kitchen

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Baldos-Viloria Family  
Top Row: Danilo Baldos, Juvy Viloria. Bottom Row: Vanessa, Brenda, Allison



The official Cayetano portrait.  
IMAGE COURTESY BEN CAYETANO

EDITOR’S NOTE: 2019 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of Benjamin J. Cayetano. This is the twelfth and final in a series of columns profiling Cayetano and his historic election and service.

Governor Cayetano at his book signing with wife Vicky and former Kalihi state representative Felipe “Jun” Abinsay, whom Cayetano appointed after the passing of Emilio Alcon.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Governor Cayetano at his book signing with his wife Vicky and his former press secretary Kathleen Racuya-Markrich, one of Cayetano's many Filipino appointees.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

The First of His Name

Benjamin Jerome Cayetano was our Governor. He just happened to also be the first Filipino-American elected as Governor, not just of Hawai‘i, but any American state. We knew “Uncle Ben” way before he became Governor Cayetano. It’s always difficult to be the first. Hawai‘i was admitted to the union just sixty years ago. In a young state, trailblazing can be even more daunting because the first is simply living history. Without an absolute majority from any one ethnic or racial group, every Governor inevitably becomes a first—the first American of Japanese Ancestry, the first Native Hawaiian, the first woman, the first Jew, the first confirmed Episcopalian, the first Okinawan. Guv, the initial Filipino to hold the office, fairly or unfairly, sets the initial standard and leaves an impression about the kind of leadership to be provided by his ethnic segment of the community.

Living up to the expectations of an entire ethnic bloc should be unnerving. But Guv simply made the hard calls and moved forward. “Let the historians judge me,” he more than once said in dismissal of too much political introspection by his cronies. At another time, he advised some of his younger political appointees, “Do your jobs. Let me worry about the politics.” In fact, although Ben as Governor served as the titular head of the local Democratic Party, he resisted requiring the active participation of his political appointees in partisan activities. During the eight years, Ben never

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## The Cayetano Legacy

A Governor Ben Cayetano Retrospective

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo G. Evangelista

dictated any decisions at the departments where we served. He disagreed at times with certain results, explaining forcefully his reasoning in often blunt and colorful fashion. But he accepted the decisions and the rationales.

Winter Is Coming

When Lt. Governor Cayetano launched his campaign for Governor, he was an underdog. Confident that he would be a good steward of the State, he chafed at early polls that downplayed his candidacy. Eight years as second banana to the charismatic John Waihe‘e had lowered his profile below his likely opponents Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi from the Best Party and U.S. Congresswoman Pat Saiiki from the GOP, and in some circles, even his Democratic Party primary opponent Health Director Jack Lewin. As a legislator, Cayetano had been a reliably quotable, if not somewhat acerbic critic of various Governors and their directors, and even City Prosecutor Chuck Marsland. The flamboyant, blunt-talking local Filipino trial lawyer made colorful copy.

When he took office as Hawai‘i’s fifth post-Statehood Governor, the Kalihi native and Farrington High School graduate faced a drastic economic slowdown. Previous Governors had reaped the benefit from the rapid growth stimulated by the post-World War II jet-age, expanding tourism in a more egalitarian manner and stirring investment and construction in new infrastructure, homes and visitor accommodations. He would also see the continuing closure of the ubiquitous plantations that once made Sugar and agriculture generally the commercial King in the islands.

In predictable accounts of his administration, his accomplishments in spite of tough financial time dominates memories of his term. As his close and longtime associate Earl Anzai, who would serve as his Budget director and then Attorney General recalls, wrestling the state budget shortfall immediately upon taking office dogged his first years.

The Bells

While criticisms from his long-time supporters—teachers and public worker unions—had to bother Ben, Anzai rejects the budget cutting as a betrayal: “Don’t forget that Governor Cayetano also spared

DOE from cuts. As you know it is the single largest component of state spending.” While DOE did see millions shaved from its operating budget, other departments lost much more—some seeing double-digit percentage cuts in general tax revenue support for their programs and worker costs.

In Anzai’s view, Guv forthrightly accepted that the revenue downturn blocked maintaining the same budget path and shelved many changes that Ben urgently wanted. Ambitious new  
see CAYETANO next page



Earl Anzai served as Cayetano’s Budget Director, then as Attorney General.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

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Cayetano and Hirono campaigning in 1994.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Cayetano's 1998 Campaign letterhead

IMAGE COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Cayetano executive assistant **Joseph Blanco** served two terms on the UH Board of Regents.

PHOTO COURTESY JOSEPH BLANCO



**Lance Collins**, a part-Filipino lawyer who was raised on Maui, recalls Cayetano being blamed for the University tuition hikes.

PHOTO COURTESY LANCE COLLINS

# Cayetano ...

from p. 7

programs and expansion on Ariyoshi-planned and Waihe'e-era initiatives—things that Cayetano had campaigned on—could not be pursued. Those ideas, Anzai ruefully summarized, were reduced to wishful thinking. “You can imagine how upset Ben was,” he recalls.

Governor Cayetano made courageous but difficult decisions to tame the state budget deficit. He did so with due regard for how the first reduction in force of government workers would sour the public worker unions to his party. Despite the disparagement of the education budget reductions, his Comptrollers at the Department of Accounting and General Services oversaw construction of sixteen new schools—more than any prior period in Hawai'i's history. While educator disaffection would hamper efforts by his Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono to succeed him, Cayetano did provide significant pay raises for teachers—shifting starting salaries from \$25,000 to \$34,300 or a 34% increase over the course of five years. Cayetano's collective bargaining office negotiated a teachers' contract that included salary incentives for professional development. During his Administration, Cayetano launched the state's first charter schools, implemented an electronic school, reached substantial compliance with the Felix Consent Decree, and started the Pre-Plus Program.

## Stormborn

Crisis, in Asian culture, also offers opportunities and the Cayetano years allowed a re-examination of how the relatively new Hawai'i state government approached crucial areas. While for certain specific initiatives the new Governor took direct control, Cayetano's management philosophy encouraged his department directors to use the budget challenge as an opportunity to re-make their areas. Technology. Changing philosophies. All were on the table.

Ben's first Land Board Chair Mike Wilson shifted his agency's focus from its economic development and asset management components towards a notion he called “sustainability.” While no one would accuse Ben of being an environmentalist, his eight years included preserving the 304-acre Ka Iwi coastline, protecting the spawning habitats of bottomfish, acquiring a permanent home for the State Foundation on Culture and Arts, and fostering a Department of Land and Natural Resources with sustainability as its governing principle. The changes also spurred reassessment of the leasing and concession programs for public lands and boating facilities—whether fair market rentals should be required on all leases, regardless of historical and other concerns. One of the more surprising results was Ben signing off on establishing the Hawai-

ian Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary—federal officials and quite a few DLNR and Office of Planning employees expected Ben to reject the proposal that had been in the works throughout the Waihe'e Administration. But while confident in his own ability to analyze issues, Governor Cayetano really did listen to those with expertise in many areas before exercising his own independent judgment. Approving the sanctuary was one of them.

Ben's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“DCCA”) Director Kathryn Matayoshi also took the initiative to spur modernization efforts, including weaning DCCA operations off any General Fund subsidies. She would push her managers to put more services online and to improve the efficiency of processing regulatory licensing with technological investments. Working with the legislature, Matayoshi successfully created the Compliance Resolution Fund which collected and dedicated all fees charged by DCCA for the department's operations. Ben approved her approach and allowed Kathy to run with the ball.

***Ben's first Land Board Chair Mike Wilson shifted his agency's focus from its economic development and asset management components towards a notion he called sustainability.***

## The Breaker of Chains

Cayetano's Economic Revitalization Task Force (“ERTF”), which included a cross-section of influential local leaders in Hawai'i's financial, development, business and governmental sectors, and private and public organized labor, proposed a package of legislative and regulatory changes to spur the economy, including reconfiguring various aspects of how Hawai'i's government operated.

For the University of Hawai'i (“UH”), the ERTF aimed at long-sought independence from legislative and executive oversight. While Cayetano supported UH President Kenneth Mortimer's proposal to expand autonomy, the budget reductions to higher education battered Ben with often scathing criticism from faculty members and students. Anzai and the others on the financial team were surprised but not very shocked by the strong reaction from Mānoa's Ivory Tower. Surely, the faculty should have understood the fiscal crisis facing the State. But the bean-counters also realized all the public worker unions—the faculty was no exception—observing the growth in the economy that followed Statehood through the end of the Burns Administration, most of the Ariyoshi years, and in the confident Waihe'e tenure, remained rightly focused on negotiating additional pay raises and improved benefits for their members.

Cayetano executive assistant Joseph Blanco, who served two terms on the UH Board of Regents, recounts, “Governor Cayetano used the power of his office to give the University of Hawai'i Constitutional Autonomy. The governor secured support from two-thirds of the legislature to pass a constitutional amendment and then ensured

see CAYETANO p.15



How was your Thanksgiving Dinner? Did you enjoy it or are you one of those who have to rush off so you can start your Black Friday sale? Where did you shop? Were you one of those hustling to buy an 85” LG LED flat tv?

It’s the last month of the year and it’s the happiest month of the year. It’s the time of gift-giving. Some people

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

buy presents, some people bake goodies, and some people give cash as it’s easier to do when you are busy and don’t have time to shop or don’t know

what to give as presents.

In some stores, they hire seasonal workers because it’s their busiest month and they need a little help to service the customers.

Speaking of needing to raise a little cash, Angel was stuck in that predicament last time.

Let’s see what’s new in her world.

AS SHE PASSES SHOP AFTER SHOP, thoughts race through her *buntuk* (head). “What now Angel? I need to find shelter, food. Oh my gash. FOOD. Suddenly, her stomach starts to growl. She hasn’t noticed with all that happened, she really hasn’t eaten anything since yesterday. Suddenly, the smell of breakfast food is nearby. She follows her smell like a rottweiler; lo and behold, a Denny’s. As she stands outside, reality sets in that she has no money. All she can do is watch people go inside, sit down and eat. She walks away back to the beach road and finds a nearby *lamisaan* (table) where she pops her *ulo* (head) down.

Exasperated, she releases all her energy on the *la mesa* (table). Tapping her finger, she turns her *ulu* (head). On the pillar is a sign. Help wanted, earn \$1000/week, call Lisa 808-256-1126. “Perfect! I will do it! But how do I call her?”

As she sits on the beach *dulang* (table), she can see the people as they pass by. “Everyone looks so busy, staring at their phones, walking fast. People are so busy here and very few are even talking to each other. It is so different from the Philippines where locals are so interactive. Much of the day is spent exchanging stories with your friends over the simple things and silly jokes. Oh, I miss home already. But I won’t let my family down. I need to get going. I wonder if anyone would let me use their phone to call Lisa,” she says to herself.

She stands and starts to approach people. The first man staring down at his device pays no attention to her. The second, a lady and she immediately raises her *gamat* (hand) and says “No, thank you.” The third, a couple holding hands. They scurry off as if Angel was a predator. Finally, she meets an older Filipina woman. “*Nanay* (Mother), may I please borrow your phone for a few minutes?” she asks. “Of course, yes, you can my dear. Who are you going to call?” says the woman. Angel points to the sign and said, “I want to call Lisa for a job.”

“What? *Nokarin* (Where) are you from? *Saan* (Where) do you live? What ...” the lady asked unending questions. Angel cuts her off and said,

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Merry Christmas!	Maligayang Pasko!	Naragsak a Pascua!	Maayong Pasko!	Malipayon nga Paskwa!	Mapalupaguiya nga Pascua!	Masayang Pasku!
Flower	Bulaklak	Sabong	Bulak	Hamulak	Lappao	Sampaga
Table	La mesa	Lamisaan	Kan’anan	Papag	Kayu	Dulang
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamut	Lima	Gamat
House/Home	Bahay/Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Where	Saan?	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin
Head	Ulo	Ulo	Ulu	Buntuk	Ulo	Ulo
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Mother	Nanay/Inay	Nana/Ina	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran

“I would like to work.” Then she begins to tear up. “I don’t know what to do.” “Ay, *bassang* (daughter). Come here,” says the woman as she gives her a hug. “I have a care home in Waipahu. Would you like to come work for me? You remind me so much of my daughter. My daughter used to help me but she married an Army man and now it’s just me by myself in my *balay* (home) to take care of my three clients.”

“I will do whatever you want me to do. I will work hard. I promise,” says Angel.

They speak for over thirty minutes at a nearby McDonald’s where Angel has her first meal in over thirty-six hours. Angel lands a deal with the woman. Her name is Tina. They come to an agreement for free room and board with no pay, to be cheap labor help at the *tahanan* (house).

They arrive at her *bahay* (home) in Waipahu a little after 2:30 p.m. and Tina shows her the room where she can stay in. It’s her daughter’s room. As she scans the portraits, she can see the resemblance of Tina and her daughter. Light skinned, rosy cheeks and wavy hair. “Bachelor in Nursing from UH Mānoa.”

“Angel, where are you?” Tina yelled from the living room.

“I’m here, *Nana* (Mother),” Angel answered. Tina told Angel to call and treat her as a mom.

“Come, let me show you around and meet my clients.”

The *bale* (house) sits in the heart of

Waipahu town, and is an older one-story cmu tile *balay* (house) with a wooden extension that nearly covers the rest of the 4500 square foot lot. Although very spacious, it is very crowded. It is apparent that Tina likes to purchase items and keep them. Room after room is filled with clutter. Boxes on top of boxes that reeks a stench of mold and dust. Both hallways have stacks of newspaper, welded together and so weathered that they are very difficult to read. The kitchen is cluttered with pots and pans, dirty dishes and yup, there’s Mr. Stewart across the counter. Angel clasps her shirt over her mouth, coughing violently. The trash is riddled with maggots and the refrigerator is clustered with expired food.

Angel quickly moves to the rest-room which needs a good scrub down with bleach. Angel wipes down a circle in the mirror so she can see. Dumbfounded, she shakes her *ulo* (head) while she splashes water on her *muka* (face).

“Angel!” Tina calls.

“Coming, *Nana* (Mother).”

In the living room Tina awaits. “Come, let’s meet your new *kaibigan* (friend), Oliver. He is one of my clients. Oliver is a retired Army veteran, no kids and his spouse recently passed away, and he is now in our care home via his insurance.”

“Hi Oliver, my name is Angel, your new *gayyem* (friend).” Oliver, sitting in his chair, staring out the window says nothing to Angel.

“Ahem, Captain Oliver,” Tina says. “This is Angel, our new *kofun* (friend). She’s going to be taking care of you. Isn’t she pretty?” Still Oliver says nothing. Tina leans over and whispers to Angel, “He doesn’t talk much. I’ve been trying to make conversation with him but he just won’t talk. Let’s go meet Jacky.” Then she looked at Oliver and says, “Bye Oliver!” Angel looks at him too and says, “Nice to meet you! I’ll be right back!” Oliver glances her way for a second and then re-focuses on the window.

Jacky is sitting in the back patio *kan’anan* (table). Rocking herself. “Door, love the door. Floor, love the floor. Clouds, love the clouds.” She mums to herself.

“Hi Jacky!” says Tina. “I want you to meet someone.” Immediately Jacky belts out a whine and rocks faster. “Birds, love the birds. Water, love the water.”

Angel picks a *sampaga* (flower) from the nearby flowerbed that is riddled with weeds. She hunches over Jacky and says. “Hi Jacky, my name is Angel, your friend. Here is a *sabong* (flower), love the *sabong* (flower).” Jacky pauses her rocking, looks at Angel and accepts the *lappao* (flower). “*Bulaklak* (Flower), love the *bulaklak* (flower). Yellow, love the yellow. *Hamulak* (Flower), love the *hamulak* (flower).”

“OMG,” Tina gasps. “She never did anything like that before,” Tina says while looking at Angel in disbelief.

“You know, sometimes flowers can bridge gaps between people. Like they used to say, ‘Flower Power,’” Angel giggles.

They head over to the next room. It is past the six stacks of disposable adult diapers. Past the dusty crutches next to the empty fish tank on the ground. As the door creaks open, the room is dark. Angel lifts her *kamay* (hand) to turn on the light and Jacky grabs her wrist. “No, leave the light off. David doesn’t like the light on.” There is a night light plugged into one of the receptacles. As they slowly move towards the home hospital bed, you can see the silhouette of a man laying down. The dark musky smell of mildew fills the air in this room. As

see LET’S TALK PINOY next page

# The Real Meaning of the 12 Days of Christmas

The Rev. John A.H. Tomosot

The popular Christmas song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is actually an English Christmas carol. It grew out of the suppression and persecution of the Catholic Church after the English Reformation. By way of explanation, from 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era ingeniously wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, which are the lyrics we know and sing plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children and all the faithful could remember.

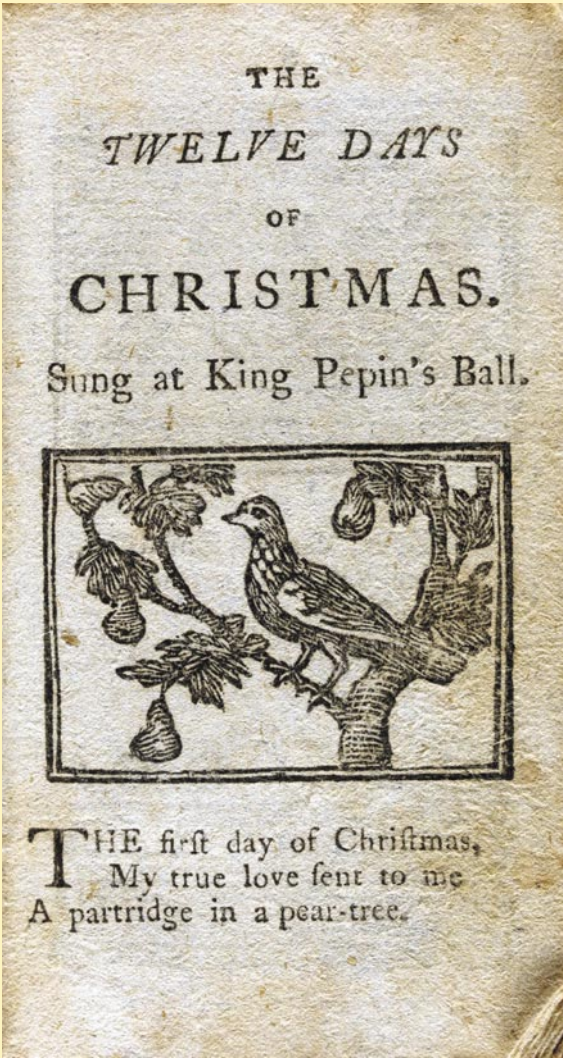
To begin, the “True Love” one hears in the song is not a boy in love with a girl. It refers to Jesus Christ because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The one partridge in the pear tree also represents Jesus because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

The two turtle doves refer to the Old and New Testaments. Isn't it interesting to associate doves with the two main parts of the canon of the Bible? Metaphorically, the doves can refer to Holy Scripture that flies in and around us and even through us, as we read, pray and learn from God's word.

The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. These are great gifts from God with the greatest being love. French hens are really beautiful and they are soft and cuddly and are prized fowl many folk keep as pets. All of God's gifts are prized and cherished and kept close to the heart.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Ah, the Gospels, through which we learn of Jesus, of His life and of His message. So, like birds, the Gospels “fly around in and through us” which allows us to strive to live as Jesus did.

The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in send-



Title page from the first known publication of *The 12 days of Christmas* in 1780  
IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA - MIRTH WITHOUT MISCHIEF (1780). LONDON: PRINTED BY J. DAVENPORT, GEORGE'S COURT

ing a Savior. The first 5 books of the Old Testament or the “Pentateuch” are known by the Jews as the story of their Covenant with Yahweh (God). As Christians, the Covenant continues through Jesus, God's Son and our Lord and Savior. Indeed, the story in the Pentateuch of our Salvation is like gold to all of us who know God!

The six geese a-laying stood for the “six days of creation.” And we know that on the seventh day, God rested. Try to live each day anew, like a new egg, laid and ready to be hatched, giving birth to more of the life that God has given us.

The seven swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. Christians, in their daily life of faith, use these gifts gracefully, like the swans in the lyrics, to keep on their journey to God which is our true destination. It's like we are swimming towards God at the other end of the pool!

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Beatitude is translated as “supreme blessedness.” So, in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 3 to 12, it is written:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit:*

see TWELVE DAYS p.14



Miss Maui Filipina Donations School Supply donations to students at Saoang Elementary School

## Vanessa Joy ...

from p. 6

Agapito came from San Juan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. He came as one of the 1946 *Sakadas*. He lived in Camp One in Pu'unēnē, Maui, Hawai'i. He worked for Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company harvesting sugar cane.

Vanessa found out that her great grandpa Agapito would eat simple meals to save money so he could buy land in the Philippines. He ate rice with sugar cane juice or coffee. With the money he saved, he was able to purchase a large parcel of land (about 10 acres) that eventually became split amongst his children and later on amongst his grandchildren. After living on Maui after his retirement, he moved back to the Philippines in 1968. He was able to live a better life with the money he had

saved. He would walk to the *tien-daan* (market) with *chicharron* in his pocket, smiling.

Instead of bringing his family to Maui, he focused on saving money. He felt that life on Maui was difficult. He didn't want his children to be subjected to the difficulties of life on Maui. Back then, young women were subjected to abrupt marriages with neighbors just to become part of families and help with the cost of living and other living accommodations. He was content with the land that he purchased to give to his children and how they could now enjoy better food in the Philippines.

Eventually, Vanessa's mother arrived on Maui through her father. In turn, her grandmother arrived in Hawai'i much later through her uncle.

Vanessa gladly shared how she and her family celebrates Christmas.

see VANESSA JOY p.14

## Let's Talk Pinoy...

from p. 9

they get closer, the faint bitter smell has turned into a strong urine smell. Once they reach the bedside, Tina says, “David, someone is h ...” But before she can finish her word, the man abruptly rises and places his *ka-may* (hand) on Tina's neck. He screams and she does too. Angel screamed, jumping up and down and trying to pry the man's *kamut* (hand) away from Tina's neck. At this moment, she can see his *mukha* (face) next to hers. She faces him saying, “Stop! Stop!” from the top of her lungs and she gets a glimpse of David. A quarter of his *nawong* (face) is deformed. His eyes filled with rage and pain. And their eyes connect. Cold blooded fear runs down her spine.

Burr, is it me or has this story become a chiller? You think this stuff only happens in books or even in real life?

What's Angel's life in the newly found home? How will she survive these newly found friends of her? Find out in our next issue of *Let's Talk Pinoy*.

Your homework this week is to say Merry Christmas to 10 people in different Filipino languages. You might impress a friend or a family

member. Let me know how it went. Share your experience at [www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui](http://www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui), we would all love to hear it.

Anyways that's all I have. Keep an eye out for my article every issue. I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's *makinig* (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, Paul Manzano. 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.*



## Are You Ready?

Liza of "A Maui Blog"

**W**e are just a few weeks away from New Year 2020 ... are you ready?

What do you think about when you hear the words "New Year?" For me, I think of New Year's resolutions and goal setting. I also think clean slate and new beginning. I always seem to have a positive outlook of the New Year and I would like to pass that positive outlook to you.

Let us talk about virtues that will help make our year 2020 a successful one. I call these the four pillars of a successful year:

### 1. Gratitude

Being grateful of what we have prepares us to be grateful for the things coming. With the popularity of social media comes the consequence of seeing the highlight reels of our family and friends. Sometimes seeing all these good things that others have that sometimes we lack but wish to have causes not a feeling of envy but also anxiety. However, if we start looking at ourselves, counting our many blessings and being grateful of what we have, we will avoid being envious or anxious. So, for 2020, I am starting a Five-Minute Journal which is also a Gratitude Journal

to help me be grateful for the things I have. It is good to be thankful for what we have. It produces peace and joy in our hearts. How about you? What practice can you do to cultivate gratitude in your heart?

### 2. Joy

I mentioned earlier that Gratitude produces Joy but I also want to talk about it separately. I think Joy is one of the four pillars of success for 2020 because life would be boring and even desperate, without joy. Remember the famous phrase Marie Kondo uses? She believes you should only keep in your house the things that sparks joy in you. May I ask ... what are some of the things that sparks joy in you? Better yet, who are the people that spark joy in you? Who are the people who make you laugh and happy? Keep them. Keep the things that spark joy in your heart and surround yourself with people who spark Joy in you.

### 3. Creativity

On New Year's Day, we set goals and resolutions. However, a few weeks into the year, many of us abandon these resolutions

**"Actually, Love is the foundation. Without Love, these four pillars will not last."**

and goals. How about we try to be creative in accomplishing them? As we have read in the book *Life Scale* by Brian Solis, "Creativity is the fountain of youth, a source of innovation, and the secret to happiness." And the famous and beloved writer Maya Angelou says "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Let's start using our creativity in 2020!

### 4. Hope

Sometimes watching the news nowadays can be depressing—crimes, shootings, wars, recession, political accusations, so on and so forth! Our humanity seems to require that we stay hopeful in life, lest we slide into bitterness or despair, and give up on life. So, it is not merely a bit of fun to make a New Year's resolution, for many it is a concrete expression of hope. And it is important to have Hope not only during the beginning of the year but throughout the year. Mindset, Optimism, Affirmations—there are important components of Hope. And for those of us who are believers, we know that Faith and Hope go hand in hand. As we look forward to 2020 let us remind ourselves that there is Hope.

Now that I we have looked at the four pillars of a successful new year, you might be asking ... what about **LOVE**? Shouldn't Love be one of the pillars? Actually, Love is the foundation. Without Love, these four pillars will not last. Yes, gratitude, joy, creativity and hope are the pillars, but Love is the foundation. And with this, I wish you all a Prosperous and Blessed New Year! ✨

**Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in



Liza at Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm, Maui  
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE



Maui Sunset  
PHOTO:  
LIZA PIERCE

Hawai'i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She's lived 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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Appointments on Maui or O'ahu



Sarah Fernandez



Bradley Domingo



Shandi Marie Agpoon



Nicole Rabanal

After completing the first semester of school, the long-awaited winter break has finally arrived. Not only will this two-week break be filled with fun but also with the joyful cheers of the Christmas holiday. Everyone’s holiday plans will differ but one thing is sure—lights, caroling, decorated trees, and presents will be prominent. Everyone defines Christmas in their own unique way. Some families will attend evening mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus

knows will get together and catch up. He could be meeting new relatives born early in the year for the first time and that is always so exciting to him. “It’s all about bonding with everyone and just having fun, sometimes that’s the actual manifestation of the gift itself and not an object or material,” he added. Bradley said he wouldn’t even ask Santa for a gift, just as long as he could spend the holidays with his loved ones and friends and make the most memorable moments with them.

# Google® Is Not Everything...

*Awaken the Christmas Spirit*

Ghenesis Jhay Balaan | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

Christ while others will stay home and enjoy the company of each other while playing games. No matter what we do, we know these will be the traditions we’ll be passing to the younger generations of our family. After all, it is the season of giving, love, and joy.

**Sarah Fernandez** says that winter break is definitely a reward to us students after a stressful half year at school: “Although I’ve procrastinated at times, I still managed to pull through and now I’m excited to wear comfy Christmas sweaters and drink hot cocoa.” She also loves to work during the break because she wants to earn money so she can buy her friends and family the best presents during the holiday. Sarah said, “We should always find the time to spend with our loved ones and appreciate them; Christmas is the perfect event to do so.” Sarah prefers giving presents rather than receiving because what satisfies her more than buying the actual gift is the smile that comes when the person she is gifting it to sees what she has gotten them. Sarah said, “Knowing that I made someone happy is the best gift anyone could give me this holiday season.”

“It’s not Christmas in my family unless there’s a party with food, drinks and a little karaoke,” says **Bradley Domingo**. Bradley believes this merry and bright season should always be fun and filled with a lot of laughter. It’s not Christmas if you’re spending it all by yourself. This end of the year celebration is what he has been waiting for after the end of the year. Everyone his family is related to or

the idea of wanting to spend the holidays in the cold. She said, “The whole vibe of the movie is very nostalgic because I always watched this whenever it started to get cold in the ‘ber’ months ever since I was young.”

Besides having her birthday in December, Shandi also celebrates this month in the laud of Jesus Christ. Since the holidays are about the spirit of giving, it almost doesn’t feel right for her to be receiving gifts, even if it is her birth month. Shandi enjoys the idea of giving gifts rather than receiving. She said, “The comfort and loving spirits of my friends and family are all I could truly ask for this holiday season.” If she can make someone’s holidays and give joy to each receiver, then that would make every Christmas the “Most Wonderful time of the year.”

The holiday season makes **Nicole Rabanal** miss the Philippines. She says that the country is the most joyful and bright when there is a Manny Pacquiao and when it is Christmas season. Going door to door caroling in her neighborhood and even in another town with her friends is a special memory she will always cherish about the Philippines during this time of the year. Nicole said, “It’s all about love; simply to give back to other people and to show love is the whole message of Christmas.” She enjoys the dinner her family always hosts called *Noche Buena*. A simple dinner like this allows her to appreciate everyone in her family, she knows how busy everyone is, so having everyone all sitting down enjoying a meal and laugh-

**Shandi Agpoon** loves to spend her holidays watching the *Home Alone* movie series. She has always been fascinated with the idea of a white, snow-filled, Christmas season and the movies give her



ing makes her heart jump. As to her Christmas wish, Nicole would like to ask Santa just one gift—a house for her and her parents.

The birth of Jesus Christ and the reawakening of the spirit of joy and laughter is the definition of the modern-day Christmas season. To teens, the holiday break is a reward for making it through a stressful year at school. Everyone will have different activities and plans for the season but gifts and togetherness will be prominent in every household. Whether it be simple Christmas dinners or a whole party, everyone is for sure guaranteed a joyful time being together with their loved ones and friends. This end of the year celebration of the human company is a great send off and farewell for the 2019 year, and by ending on a high note, we are all able to look at a bright, hopefully, next year, towards a better tomorrow. ✨

**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 **Ghenesis Jhay Balaan**, a Senior at Maui High School attending its Culinary and Health CTE Pathway. He is a three-year member of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and served as its Council Treasurer in 2017–2018. Ghenesis hopes to become a respiratory therapist in the future. He is the eldest son of Benjamin V. Ballesteros Jr. and Jerameelyn B. Ballesteros.



**This month’s community photos highlight “A Silver Extravaganza”... celebrating the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce’s 25th anniversary (1994–2019) | PHOTOS: CEASAR LIZADA**





**The Adoration of the Magi** fresco in the Lower Church of the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi in Assisi, Italy is telling of The Twelve Days of Christmas, also known as *Twelvetide*—a festive Christian season celebrating the Nativity of Jesus.  
IMAGE: GIOTTO DI BONDONE - WEB GALLERY OF ART: IMAGE INFO ABOUT ARTWORK, PUBLIC DOMAIN, [HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=3080063](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3080063)

## Twelve Days ...

from p. 10

*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are the meek:  
for they shall possess the land.*

*Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst  
after justice:  
for they shall have their fill.*

*Blessed are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart:  
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called children  
of God.*

*Blessed are they that suffer  
persecution for justice' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Like a calf suckling at its mother's udder, we derive true sustenance (the milk of our faith) for our daily life, as we journey to God.

Nine ladies dancing were the first nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, of which there are twelve—Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity], plus Forbearance (which is related to Patience), Kindness (which is related to Goodness) and Chastity (which is related to Continency). Can you try, in the New Year, to practice these “fruits?”

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. You know, whenever I think about the Ten Commandments, I think of that great scene in the movie *The Ten Commandments* where Moses is coming down from the Mountain of God with the stone tablets. In fact, a part of that scene which is so iconic are dancers carousing among the impatient people. I remember the actor Charleston Heston's face which went through every emotion as he came

down the mountain, ending with surprise and disgust when he saw the dancers. (But not these dancers “a-leaping”; for joy I suppose.)

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles. Can you name them? They all have Feast Days in the church's liturgical year!

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed. We recite the Nicene Creed every Sunday at Mass. The Apostles' Creed is usually recited at the Rites of Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordinations and at the Burial of the Dead. Go ahead and take a look at these and pick out these “twelve points of belief” which we profess, ritually and in our hearts!

Please remember that Advent comes before Christmas but you can start singing this Christmas song right now and through Christmas! ✨

**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 Col-

lege 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.

## Greatest Gift ...

from p. 3

and loud cheers made everyone smile. During Christmas, she would make her way through the house, jokingly asking us what we got her for Christmas. In this moment, she gave us the greatest gift of all this Christmas season. An opportunity to be together amongst family members we haven't seen in as many as 10 years. Grieving for the loss of her presence brought us closer as a family and allowed us to reconnect to our roots. It gave us the appreciation of each other's company. I hope everyone can enjoy the same warmth and company this Christmas season. I will always remember her and her love for family and celebration. Rest in peace and love, my dear Aunt Resy Viloría Villalun (May 16, 1976—November 8, 2019). ✨

**Vanessa Joy Domingo** is a graduate of Maui High School and is currently attending University of Hawai'i Maui College. She is employed with Coldwell Banker -



**Aunt Resy Viloría Villalun**

Wailea Village as a Realtor and is the 2018 Miss Maui Filipina. When she has free time, she loves to go fishing, go to the gym and practice aerial silks. She volunteers her time throughout the community with the Maui Filipino Community Council, Binhi at Ani, Read Aloud America, and Maui High School Foundation. She realized she enjoys life in the Philippines more so because she could

live off of roll cakes from Bakers PH, fish cake, isaw, bbq sticks, and empanadas everyday. She and her husband Mark hope to one day see a Mang Inasal restaurant here on Maui.

## Sakada Offspring

Cont'd from p. 10



2018 Miss Maui Filipina contestants

## Vanessa Joy ...

from p. 10

She said: “Christmas was celebrated with decorating the Christmas tree together and watching my dad put lights up. My mom would cook *bibingka* and *pancit*. Back then we had to attend midnight mass at Christ The King Church. My sisters and I would always look forward to it. After attending mass, we would open presents. Before, we used to video record our experiences with opening presents and saying aloud who it was from and then explaining what the present was once it was unwrapped. Now, I've learned to celebrate the holidays with games with my husband's family and doing a potluck dinner with everyone.”

Vanessa was very happy in sharing her personal reflection. She said: “I gravitate towards helping others in life. I feel that we have a responsibility to help others when we can. The experiences that I've had in life have taught me to appreciate what I have and to also share so others can experience the

same. I always have goals to improve myself. I never feel it is too late to achieve anything. Growing older, my culture has become important to me. I've learned cultural dances and learned to cook our Filipino cuisine. Remembering where I came from is crucial to giving me direction to move forward in my life.” ✨

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the

line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins 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. 8

that ballot initiative passed with overwhelming public support ... one of the most significant milestones in the history of the University of Hawai'i."

Act 115 (1998) weaned UH leaders from oversight by the state and capped President Mortimer's efforts to win the university system more control over its affairs. The University Board of Regents would be charged with determining fees without going through the process required for all other State agencies. The administration also proposed tuition increases and more emphasis on student loans. At the time, Hawai'i students enjoyed some of the lowest tuition rates in the country. Lance Collins, a part-Filipino lawyer who was raised on Maui, recalls student leaders swiftly reacted and organized statewide protests against the tuition increases. And they blamed Ben even though the university president was not an official member of the Administration or Cabinet. "Some of that was probably deserved but Cayetano became the scapegoat for what was really a complex set of decisions by University administrators, the legislators and the Governor in reworking the University's relationship to the state treasury," Collins explains.

Collins, in retrospect, believes Cayetano "was the first Governor who didn't just give the University administration or faculty a pass with its funding requests." In Collins' reassessment, Ben's approach required the university and its constituencies to "more carefully and honestly justify its use of taxpayer money." But while the university administration received more responsibility (and the long-sought autonomy in spending), like other agencies now tasked with managing large budget cuts, Collins thinks UH's leadership "floundered in many respects." Collins points out that the University prioritized "flashy academic units" over ones with broad-based community impacts. He describes the School of Medicine cannibalizing the School of Public Health. During Cayetano's Administration, the university broke ground for the new \$300 million John A. Burns School of Medicine and Biotech Center on State land in Kaka'ako, and Cayetano approved investing more than half a billion dollars in upgrading UH facilities, and developing the new Institute for Biogenesis Research. Cayetano also directed his office to pursue luring institutions like the Mayo Clinic or M.D. Anderson and others to consider Hawai'i as an outpost.

## The Watchers on the Wall

The common belief that State

spending is a zero-sum calculation—like a family's checking account—somewhat overly simplifies the limitations legally imposed on government budgeting. Hawai'i law and sometimes federal law, however, statutorily circumscribed certain taxes and fees for specified uses. For example, while the Department of Transportation is allocated tremendous sums for projects at Hawai'i's airports, harbors and highways, those projects are paid from revenues and fees generated by airline landing fees and airport concessions, harbor fees and gas taxes that federal requirements legally allow solely for transportation-related facility improvements. The problem with the State budget was a shortfall in revenues collected from general tax sources—income taxes, general excise taxes and other sources that were not specifically earmarked for particular purposes.

While Collins recognizes the timing of Cayetano's tenure with the economic downturn of the 1990s (the end of the overseas investment bubble), he remains critical that the cuts to the university budget went into funding creation of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority ("HTA") instead. Given the expanding role of tourism in the State's economy, the ERTF agreed on the need to address "the level and uncertainty of funding for tourism marketing and promotion." The aftermath of the first Gulf War and recovery from the hurricane that hit the island of Kaua'i, contributed to the State's difficulty in recapturing the rapid post-World War II economic growth.

While the Holy Grail of diversification of the local economy could not be ignored, given the Visitor Industry's increasing importance, the ERTF believed "tourism is also where positive changes are likely to have the largest effects."

Cayetano economic development official Brad Mossman points to the HTA as the most enduring result from the ERTF efforts but likely doesn't draw any linkage between cuts at the university with that creation. The dedication of hotel room tax revenues provided resources that improved promotion, based on more research and data on markets. The changes also rationalized convention center payments. Under existing conditions, when East Coast visitors dropped off, the different island visitor bureaus, hotels, and visitor-dependent businesses did not have the ability to coordinate efforts to make up for the losses. The HTA was also structured to have broader representation of the visitor industry than just the Waikiki hotel leaders, ensuring neighbor island seats. The hike to the TAT rate also spared the Counties from annually lobbying the State for grants by allocating a dedicated portion of the hotel room taxes for their use as well.

**While the Holy Grail of diversification of the local economy could not be ignored, given the Visitor Industry's increasing importance, the ERTF believed "tourism is also where positive changes are likely to have the largest effect."**

— ERTF



Ben and Vicky.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

son's own life from his decisions and the perception established about Cayetano from various opinion makers. To many of his long-time associates, the press was not very kind to Cayetano as Governor.

His supporters complained Ben did not get the credit for the good things he accomplished. Guv worked with the legislature and the private sector, to pass the largest tax cuts in Hawai'i history, saving taxpayers about \$2 billion over six years. In tough negotiations with longtime allies in the public sector unions, he passed legislative changes that reduced the annual growth of government and launched civil service reform, including setting the stage for some privatization of government services. He set the stage for addressing one of the cost-drivers for the State's unfunded liability by reforming the State Health Fund—consolidating all current workers and retirees into one Employer Union Trust Fund to manage medical benefits for public workers. Governor Cayetano



Cayetano's administration completed the \$350 million Convention Center outside of Waikiki "on time and on budget" and his office helped attract and host the Miss Universe Pageant (on the heels of Hawai'i-native Brook Lee completing her reign), the Asian Development Bank convention, and other meetings.

## And Now His Watch is Ended

But a total assessment of his record comes down to the impacts on a per-

approved creating a "Rainy Day Fund" for future budget challenges. His administration worked to reduce prescription drug costs and to provide better oversight over insurance rates, and reduced workers compensation insurance costs for Hawai'i's businesses. The Cayetano Administration also developed a record number of affordable rental housing units—more than all prior governors combined. Building on national requirements, his Department

see CAYETANO back page

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Cayetano ...

from p. 15

ment of Human Services helped welfare recipients to transition to the workforce. He started the effort to require treatment programs for first time drug offenders. He explored with the legislature ways to cap gasoline prices. In order to prime the construction sector, he introduced a \$1 billion capital improvements program which kept Hawai'i's building industry afloat. The Cayetano administration worked with the legislature to encourage high technology and biotechnology growth in Hawai'i. Ironically, he also intervened to stave off an initial attempt to close the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, the more conservative of the two O'ahu dailies and a critic of his administration. As happened in other states, the two dailies would later merge after the end of his term.

For some, one of the biggest changes during his tenure resulted from the work of his Attorney General Margery Bronster in cleaning up the operations of the Bishop Estate and the selection and compensation of trustees for all local trusts.

In issues important to the Filipino community, Ben released \$1.5 million dollars for the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu and \$1 million dollars for Maui's Filipino community center, and appointed members to the Commission on the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Arrival of the *Sakadas* in Hawai'i. Gov. also appointed the largest number of *Manongs* and *Manangs* to positions in state government.

The Rains of Castamere

As Governor, Ben perhaps did not appreciate at first how his every pronouncement now had impacts that his quips and barbs as a State Rep., Senator and even Lt. Governor did not. While people may suggest they want their elected officials to talk to them in a straightforward and honest manner, politicians can never please everyone. Since entering public life, Cayetano never held back his opinions when he believed government leaders, including fellow Democrats, were "playing politics" instead of serving the public.

That certainty in his own assessment of the best course made Cayetano an easy target for everyone, including the political pundits, the media, other elected officials, and the person on the street who differed with his position or, often, how he expressed that view.

But even members of the local Fil-



Guv with Gil Keith-Agaran, Alfredo G. Evangelista and Wilfredo Tungol in 1991.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

ipino community, the Filipino media included, had no qualms in quickly complaining about and chiding the Governor.

Some of his closest associates, and undoubtedly the Governor himself in retrospect, granted that some criticisms may have been well-founded. But they all still concluded that Governor Cayetano was the right person for the job at the time—making some tough choices against his own social policy inclinations.

Unbowed, Unbent, Unbroken

In 1998, Ben wrote of his hopes: "The Hawai'i I would like to leave to my children and to my children's children is one in which the economy will be diverse and dynamic; the environment will be pristine; and our quality of life continues to be among the highest in the world. And perhaps most importantly, our Aloha Spirit will continue as the bond that holds everyone together ... We must take great care to foster the Aloha Spirit because it is important to our character as a community and as a state in a global society. It is the spirit that moves us to help our neighbors and to welcome visitors to our home with a warm and bountiful hospitality."

The Aloha Spirit described by Governor Cayetano combines the *Bayanihan* spirit and the all-encompassing *Mabuhay* in Filipino culture.

Collins also concludes, "For the Filipino community, in my view, his position as a two-term governor helped

soften the otherwise harsh unconscious and/or conscious racism held by many people about the abilities of Filipinos in Hawai'i."

After returning from the mainland to practice law in Hawai'i, Cayetano dedicated a substantial portion of his working life to public service: several years as a Housing Authority member, four years in the State House, eight years in the State Senate, eight years as Lt. Governor and eight years as Governor. As Governor, he was dedicated to serving the best interests of the people of the State of Hawai'i and sought Cabinet members with similar dedication. During his time in office, Governor Cayetano served without any major blemish on his personal reputation.

Whatever tough decisions he made during his eight years as Governor, the best assessment of his tenure is captured at the end of his autobiography, *Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid to Governor*:

"When I began my political career in 1974 I was a 34-year-old lawyer full of idealism, ready to change the world. A veteran legislator who took a

liking to me took me aside and offered the following: 'Ben,' he said, 'you remind me of myself when I first got into politics. I was a reformer; I wanted to change the world. You're no different. But after being in this business for 20 years now, I think the best any politician can hope for before he leaves is that he helped to make life a little better for our people.'

'He was right.' ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo G. Evangelista** practice law in Wailuku, Maui. They worked on Ben Cayetano's campaigns for Governor and Lt. Governor and served in various appointed positions during the eight years of the Cayetano Administration (1995–2002).

At some point, however, they dropped their familiarity and "Uncle Ben" became "Governor Cayetano" or "Guv". Except for quotes from other people, this column represents their

own views. Portions of this column, in slightly different form, previously appeared in the program for an event honoring Governor Cayetano at the end of his term organized by Hawai'i's Filipino community.



Keith-Agaran and Evangelista in 1995

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