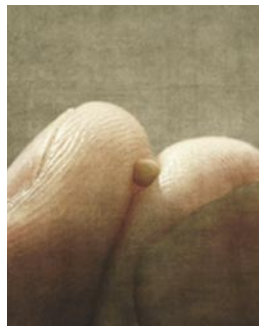


Virus Does Not Pick and Choose

How are you affected?

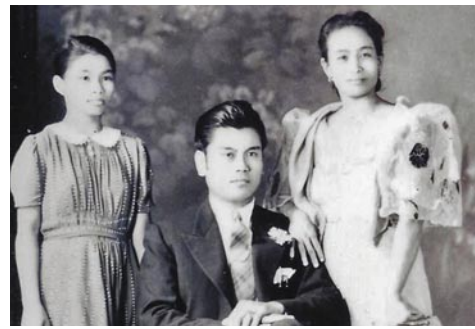
Page 1



Fearful or Anxious?

Novel Coronavirus will test our faith—but rest assured; take courage—God will see us through.

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Happy Childhood, a Gift

Alvin Cortez shares the gift he received from his grandpa.

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Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

April 2020 • Vol 4 No 4

FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

inside



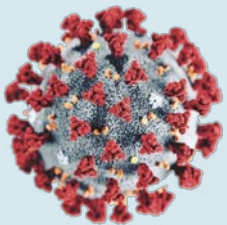
Our State Government is hard at work for you and your family.

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Biblical plagues of old offer insight into our current COVID-19 plight.

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Kwento-Kwentuhan offers medical doctor's advice.

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FREE



We Are All Affected

COVID-19 disrupts our lives.

Vanessa Joy Domingo and Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

From students to small business owners to those in the health field and hospitality industries—just everyone—the COVID-19 has affected all of us regardless of our age, marital status, where

we live, where we trace our roots from, and where we work.

Community events such as the 51st Barrio Fiesta were postponed (from May 22–23 to September 4–5). Meanwhile, Binhi at Ani Fil-

ipino Community Center is scrambling to replace lost revenues since it closed on March 16.

A month ago, since our last issue, we would have never imagined that ...

- At least 14 of Maui's hotels and resorts are shut down.
- By the end of March, nearly 11,000 had filed initial claims for

see COVID-19 p.3

COVID-19 ...

from p. 1

- unemployment benefits and more have filed in the weeks following, with many anecdotally unable to access an overloaded Labor Department UI system.
- Wearing a mask in public is the new norm.
- School campuses are empty and young minds across the island need internet access for learning.
- The number of tourists arriving into Hawai'i daily have dwindled down to less than 200 compared to more than 30,000 the same time last year.

The following first-person accounts are just a sample of how we are all affected. We hope and pray the curve will soon be flattened but we know it will take longer—months and probably years—for our lives to return to normal.

Angeline Abapo of Lala's Services LLC



"This global pandemic has impacted my business big time! As we all know Maui is a tourist destination in which my business relies so much with tourism which at the very beginning of this pandemic the tourism industry trickled down in terms of visitors coming in. Without tourism my cleaning services is greatly affected, all the condo units, vacation rentals including residential offices, most of the reservations were canceled and no bookings. GOD HELP US! Prayers make wonders."

Robert Agapay



"My job role has been reduced a little. I used to be able to meet with contractors and other County employees but with COVID-19 and the Mayor's policies, we try not to

meet in person or stay six feet apart. COVID-19 has made me reflect on how much fun and freedom I had as a kid and teenager. Having barbecues at the beach with family and friends, being able to hang out at the local Chevron, parties, etc. I am thankful I was able to do all those things without having the threat of catching COVID-19. I'm more cautious about my parents due to them being older with health issues. I try to make sure they don't go out as much and limit their interaction with others. I am still the same person but just a little cautious now, no hugs or cheek kisses!"

Miguel and Melen Agcolicol of Copy Services



"Our business slowed down by 20-percent since the rule was implemented. We lost walk-in customers and some customers put their building projects on hold. But most ongoing construction projects need our support for the printing of their construction plans and specifications. Luckily, it is tax season and that is what keeps us busy to service clients but only by appointment. We are grateful for our loyal customers who come and support us throughout this difficult time."

Salvacion Agdinaoy of CAA Marketplace



"We have been impacted by COVID-19 in so many ways. First, the dine-in area is closed. We had to switch to a take out and pick up only. Delivery is available through Bite Squad. We are working on delivery service and plan to implement that next week. Second, our catering business has stopped because there are no gatherings at this time. Third, some of our partners that we deliver to have been affected because they are either shut down and some are affected by the tourism decline. Fourth, our employees who have kids at home are being chal-

lenged to balance that new normal. We have implemented safety precautions for those coming into the grocery store, where we saw an increase in sales for essential items like rice and soap. We are so thankful to all our customers for all their support and we are so proud of how the community is coming together to get through these trying times."

Sheena Agtagma



"This virus has impacted me in so many ways, but there are three significant areas this year that it has changed. First of all, due to COVID-19, I am now one of the few that is considered an 'essential worker' being in the dental field. The thought of going to work potentially being infected by an invisible and deadly enemy absolutely scares me. I worry about my well being—about the fact that I could also infect my family at home. The second major impact COVID-19 has affected was the cancelling of my youngest son's first birthday party. My other half and I were very excited to finally get our son's party done. With the help of our party planner we were able to relieve our stress and make sure we got all we wanted to accomplish and make happen for this special occasion. From the food to the DJ, almost everything was coordinated and planned. However a month before the party we had to cancel everything in light of the growing danger that was to come. We still can throw our son a party but we are not sure how long or even if everything goes back to normal. Yes, COVID-19 has created a lot of changes but the third major change isn't all that bad. Everyone at home is usually too busy at work or have their own personal activities but now we have a lot of time together which is making everyone a little bit happier. We have actual family dinners, we play card games, Jenga, and are learning new meals and desserts to cook. Yes, we are stuck at home but at least we have each other. Regardless of the danger that looms all around as long as we have the safety of our home, food in our bellies, and our happiness, that is all that matters."

May Anne Asuncion Alibin of Wailuku Seafood



"While many retail stores, bars and restaurants have closed down due to the COVID-19, our store remains open to continuously bring essential service to our community. Prior to the Mayor's Stay Home/Work from Home order, our sales increased dramatically as people began to panic buy. However, since last week's implementation of this order, we have seen a roller coaster effect on our sales. Our sales pattern has been unpredictable. There has been days where we were slow and some where we were busy. As this COVID-19 continues, we have been experiencing delays in servicing our orders. There are a lot of items especially from the Philippines that are unavailable because of the lock-down in the originating countries. Some of our distributors had to change hours or shutdown their operations with relatively short notice to our store, due to health and safety reasons. Wailuku Seafood Center will try its best to meet our customers' demands for these products. However, we ask for our customers' cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented time."

Fr. Jojo Alnas of Holy Rosary Church



"COVID-19 an invisible thing that sets a distance of every individual in order not to be hurt, suffer and destroyed. But an opportunity to be connected to an invisible God in order to be healed and be made whole. A minister's life basically connects people and bridges the gap of life distances, especially between God and man, and fellow individuals. In this time of COVID-19, bridging the gap is done remotely, celebrating the Holy Mass privately but putting into mind the intention of the faithful and offering it to God, hoping that in His love and

mercy He will answer our petitions and prayers."

Lyn and Jesse Alpuro of All Pure Media



"From doing nightly shows three to four times a week, to nothing, it has greatly affected our business. In our industry, we rely on venues like restaurants and hotels where we have our shows. Ninety percent of our guests are tourists. Our shows on other islands and on the mainland have been canceled. Restaurants and hotels have closed. Those few who did come to Maui stayed where they were because of the fear of getting sick. All musicians on the island are not working. Many are doing social media concerts from their living room. It truly is a trying and uncertain time for all of us."

Marrieta Bajuyo



"This Corona virus pandemic has affected me and my work in a big way. Personally, it has changed a lot of things and has limited the things that I am supposed to do as my part in our household. Just to mention one the grocery shopping, it's now added to the burden my husband has to do on top of being the only one still working as he is our designated person to go out and run errands while we adhere to the stay at home mandate by the state. The restaurant that I worked in closed due to this pandemic and I am now without a job and waiting for the unemployment benefits. Even with the money coming from the unemployment benefits, our finances have still been severely impacted because it is only a small portion of what I would usually make in a week when I am still working. And we depend a lot of our day to day expenses and some of the bills we needed to pay through the gratuity that I make from my work. Hopefully this will be over soon so we won't fall way behind on our bills which include utilities, rent, phone, insurance, etc."

Mary Basig



"Coronavirus—the pandemic that has affected many lives, varying from unemployment to even death. I am very fortunate to be considered an essential worker and am now working from home however, that's not the case for everyone in my family. My dad and my younger sister are also fortunate to still be able to work. My mom is a hotel worker and will be out of work for two months and my youngest sister is out of school and work until further notice. Even though we are still getting income within the household, it is still frustrating because we all still have bills to pay and who knows how long the 'stay at home' order will be in place. It is a very difficult time for everyone and all we can really do is abide by the rules and just have faith that we will overcome this pandemic"

Jhon Boy Bautista



As a bartender, COVID-19 has impacted me as it has everyone in the hotel industry. As the United States progressed in climbing numbers of positive cases, we practiced our cleanliness protocols as we always do, but as the virus made its way to Hawai'i our hotel made the right decision to close down but with that happening meant we would all be laid off. As far as returning to work, we have an estimated return to work date which is hopefully in June. But as far as the virus goes, hopefully we will be in control of it sooner rather than later. The concerns I have with COVID-19 is the same as many. I worry about the frontline workers, the essential workers and the people behind the scenes. My mom is a housekeeper for the hospital and has been there for 20 plus years and now more than ever I worry. We can't even see her right now because of the risk of exposure, al-

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though she takes it very seriously and sanitizes and cleans herself before she enters her home. If our community can just do as we are told and continue to social distance then we can get over this faster! Whether you believe the impacts of this virus or not, please just do as we are told. This is reality now, staying indoors, schooling our children with the help of our *amazing* teachers. This is the new normal. Maybe we can get over this and get back to our old normal! I am so grateful that I get to be home with my family at this time but I do worry. I had to watch my body for 14 days from the last day I worked because of the hotel exposure and I am thankful I made it since then without any symptoms. Having a daughter and a son that are asymptomatic makes my wife and I worry everyday."

Kayla Marie Galinato Brown, RN



"The virus has not affected my job in ways that I wouldn't be able to work. But it has affected me in the sense that I am now risking my current health to help others in the community who may or may not have it. We have to be more cautious on how to protect ourselves and the community from this virus. It made me reflect on my loved ones a lot. It's a scary situation, I may lose them or they may lose me to this virus. Every day is a new day and you just don't know what to expect. I never know what I'm going to walk into. I have family that I haven't seen in awhile because I'm scared that I might already be a carrier and I don't want to expose them and risk losing them. I take it day by day, appreciate my family, appreciate everyone that is in my life. Being grateful for the staff that I work with. Being grateful that in the midst of this chaos, people are still willing to risk their lives to help save others. There has been a lot of changes in policies here at the hospital. To protect those in healthcare and help in reduction of possible exposures to the community, we have implemented a 'no visitors policy' and

every patient must get masked prior to entering the emergency department. They have now also allowed staff to use their own homemade masks. There has also been more utilization of walkie talkies when in isolation rooms so that we can communicate to those outside if we need anything in the rooms. We try to cluster care and it helps that we have walkie talkies to communicate anything else that we may need to reduce the overuse of PPEs (personal protective equipment). I'm concerned about the increase in exposure due to the community's non-compliance with social distancing and self-quarantining. With that, I believe there will be an increase in loss of jobs, increase in bankruptcy, loss of businesses, people not being able to support their family, people losing their homes. A lot of this will create a rise in behavioral issues if it has not already. The community can help by being compliant with recommendations, being patient, being cautious. *Hand wash hand wash hand wash!* Be courteous and cover your coughs and sneezes followed by hand washing. Wear a mask. Stay up to date with new recommendations because this changes every day."

Elizabeth Buenafe and Mila Crisologo of Four Sisters Catering



"As of March 10 until April 30th, some of our wedding catering schedules were postponed until next year while some got cancelled due to the rules of no socializing more than 10 people and social distancing. We lost lots of business that could add up to \$50,000-plus. Although we have a busy schedule for May and June, caterings for both months are still up in the air. We really got hit a lot!"

Randy Cruz of Randy's Catering

"The County stopped large gatherings and our business is catering. So all of our business was canceled. In March, seven caterings were canceled—covering over a thousand people while in April at least eight were canceled. I am applying for the SBA assistance and I hope we



will be approved. I approached my business loan banker at American Savings Bank and he was helpful. Hopefully, this virus will not further delay the permits for us to complete the renovation of Paukūkalo store. If this continues for three months, many businesses will fail because we have to pay rent. Our faith in God has given us hope to continue. In Matthew 24:7, this was forecast and this is the time to repent our sins. God said you cannot serve both God and money. This is a wake up call to everyone that humans cannot do anything without God. God is in control of everything so we need to repent. This pandemic disease is the work of Satan and God will lead us out of the darkness and into the light."

Zyra Delacruz



"As a college student, I didn't know the corona virus would affect me, my life, my schooling, and my future career. This virus put my life on pause and not knowing what will happen next—tomorrow, the next day, and the day after that. I am currently in my last semester of college at University of Nevada, Las Vegas majoring in Hospitality Management. But unfortunately I am back in Hawai'i and doing virtual schooling. Online classes are hard especially with the time difference and being away from school limits me from resources that the school offers. This does not feel normal at all. My graduation ceremony was scheduled for May but due to the virus, they have postponed it to end of summer or fall or who knows, it could never happen. After graduation, I had my whole life planned out. I wasn't planning to move back to Hawai'i this soon. My post graduation job offer was also canceled because of the pandemic. With the hotel industry going down during this time, I am afraid that there might

not be any jobs for me after this pandemic blows off. When this lock down is over, there will still be a fear to travel. If business remains slow and hotels have low occupancy, then people will still be getting laid off and fighting for their job. There's no room for us graduates to step into the industry. I pray and hope that this pandemic will go away soon so things will eventually get better. As a Graduating Senior, this pandemic is taking a toll on me because it took an experience of a life time away from me and with that said, my career has been put on hold."

Dante Domingo



"It's been a lot busier within the last month because people are ordering essential items online versus going to the store. As a UPS driver, I do feel concerned about touching packages, and the risks that it brings. We wear masks and gloves at work, which are supplied by our employer. We try our best to stay six feet away from other people when we deliver packages. I'm always washing my hands now and now I'm a firm believer of how people should not come to work at all if they are sick. I was sick a few weeks ago and it put it into perspective how the virus can spread if people are still going to work even if they are not well. I was scared, thinking that I might have gotten the virus. After doing some research, I was reassured that what I had wasn't COVID-19 because it didn't match up with my symptoms."

Ed Garcia



"In a matter of weeks, coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed how students are educated around the world. As educators, we had to change our lecture-based approach to teaching our students. Our school chose to go online learning tools (such as read-
see COVID-19 p.4



Mahalo to Hawaii's Farmers


On behalf of our entire Bayer ohana, a big mahalo to all of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Farmers are truly our unsung heroes. Hard-working people who battle invasive insects. Bad weather. Tough economic conditions, and other challenges to providing the food, feed and fiber needed by people and communities the world over.

Mahalo for making our lives better.

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WE'RE HERE FOR YOU


Daily life as we know it has changed in so many ways. But supporting the safety, health, and well-being of our community remains paramount in everything we do. During this unprecedented time, we want you to know that Maui Health is here for you. Here are a few tips to help keep you and your 'ohana healthy – physically, mentally and emotionally.

STAY CONNECTED:
Check in with friends and family regularly on the phone or by video chat. Ask how they're doing or what they've been up to. Use this as an opportunity to reconnect with old friends that you may have lost touch with. Brighten someone's day with a simple call.

KEEP A ROUTINE:
A daily routine can return some normalcy which can offset feelings of uncertainty and change. Get up and get ready for the day even when you're not going anywhere. Create a schedule that includes wake-up time, reading, meals, exercise, and fun activities throughout the day.

PRACTICE HEALTHY HABITS:
Create healthy habits that include diet, exercise and self-care. Taking care of your physical health is directly related to your ability to manage stress. Think about whether indulging in the news 24/7 is becoming an unhealthy habit and if so, create boundaries and limits.

For tips on staying healthy while at home, visit [mauihealth.org/healthlibrary](#).



Community hospitals affiliated with KADIE PERMANENTE.



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE



Coping With Crisis

Most across the world agree the coronavirus is touching every part of the world, without exception. Early warnings came as early as December 2019 and the world leaders who were paying close attention began with preparation, Germany noted as one of the first to take it seriously.

Lagging by a few months, Americans are now caught in an urgent response effort, especially in the hotspots which are now facing death and illness in increasing numbers. We on Maui are among the more fortunate. Our Governor and Mayor have ordered all to STAY HOME and most take heed.

With this current coronavirus pandemic hitting our nation and our community there also comes uncertainty, fear and anxiety for individuals and our community. Just these past few days there are already many changes disrupting our traditional routines even to the point of suspending schools, social gatherings, graduations, church worship services and other aspects of life. Many of our residents are very concerned (rightfully so) about the impact of this outbreak and how we respond and

cope with this crisis will determine how important 'ohana and the spirit of bayanihan to be practiced will be, more than ever before.

Coping with a crisis as rare as this becomes an individual choice because each of us knows best what we need to do. For many, the first step is checking in with family and friends who are most important to us. We learn to wait patiently for the return call of those we missed. What a relief to hear their voices, read their text and email messages, and for a few, chat with them while they visit from their car. Sometimes it means making a quick stop to a grocery store for the needed 14-day supply, including medications and favorite snacks. Some could be seen hanging laundry to ensure clean clothes, bedding and linens are available. All prepare with the hope this will be enough for the duration of the shutdown. Those with technology options keep a running conversation going as the hours stretch into weeks and the likelihood of even months.

As for my wife and I, the way we cope with this STAY HOME policy and to avoid stress is to

see STAY HOME p. 6

COVID-19 ...

from p. 3

ing, math, science, social studies, even for subjects such as physical education materials via Google Classroom). As staff members, we have been meeting through WebEx to communicate plans for the students. In my opinion, first and foremost, the community needs to help in keeping others safe and feeling secured. We can do that by helping the community in practicing kindness. During tense times it can be really hard to see the good in people but being kind can help bring it to the surface. Most grocery store employees, delivery folks, police and medical professionals are slammed and exhausted. They're out there, dealing with the public during a really chaotic time. Showing them a little patience and kindness can make a world of difference, so do your best to be kind."

Jamie Garcia



"I'm very grateful to still have my job *but* feel that we should have been given an opportunity to work from home like other Departments. We've become very busy trying

to keep the community away from our parks and facilities. It hasn't affected our office as everyone still reports to work. Our office is closed to the public, we are provided with PPE, we keep our 6-foot distance between each other and have more frequent cleaning and sanitizing. My concerns are that people continue to not follow the stay home order and go out even when it's not necessary causing more risk and exposure to us 'the essential worker.' I'm afraid everyday to leave my house for work, risking getting sick and bringing it to my healthy vulnerable family. *Please stay home!* If you have to get something, just one person from your household should go, pick up what you need and go home! *Stay home and enjoy your family!* It has made me more germaphobic and very cautious to what/who's around me, it has given me more assurance that being a homebody isn't bad at all, and has made me realize that with all our family activities, meetings, appointments we forget to enjoy the little things and the times where we can just relax and not worry about stuff coming up and always being on the go. It's been really nice to just go to work then come home to enjoy family time."

Sheena Garo



"The COVID-19 outbreak has definitely brought stress and unexpected changes to my life. It is also scary when a college student has to be put through a situation where they

may possibly have to quarantine alone and away from their family. It is stressful because I have never been through a situation that has basically put my life and dreams on pause and I have no control over it. During this difficult time, my program had to suspend all face-to-face interactions. Most local hospitals have closed their doors to students for the safety of our community. Although I agree with their decision, I am also sad because most of our learning and growing as future health professionals takes place in the hospitals, where we are able to witness real life challenges that healthcare workers face on a daily basis."

Christine Gumpal, RN of CNA Hawaii Institute, LLC



"This pandemic that ravages our world today including our country and even our very own County of Maui has brought chaos and wreaked havoc on the different spectrum of our lives. Our anxieties were heightened and we have asked ourselves 'Am I going to be the next carrier?' We have become suspicious of our neighbors and prefer to be

alone with my family members. Social distancing and hand washing almost turn into compulsion. Our business of healthcare training for nurse assistant and phlebotomy training program was placed on hold to mitigate the spread of corona virus in our County. We are all in this together—our own family, business sector, church and different agencies. I would be remiss if I do not give an affirmation to our healthcare workers in the frontline containing this pandemic. I honestly do not know when this scourge will end but I am hopeful because 'nothing worthwhile comes easy.'"

Joey Macadangdang of Joey's Kitchen



As a small business owner, it's been tough on us. We had no choice but to close Joey's Kitchen in Whaler's Village in Kā'anapali because there was no traffic to

sustain a take out only operation. It was sad because we were prepared to celebrate our fifth year anniversary. It's difficult because we are still responsible to pay for rent, CAM, and the other charges from the shopping center. Thanks to our loyal customers, we are able to keep Joey's Kitchen in Nāpili open although it is for take out only, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 8 p.m. Meanwhile, the construction for *Maca Dang Dang* is on hold. We're hoping and praying for God's continued grace and blessings that this pandemic will end sooner rather than later."

Arnold Magbual of Four Sisters Bakery



"We are still open. Business has slowed down a bit but not by much. We put in a line six feet apart to comply with the CDC recommendations. We added a

sneeze guard across the counter and we put a note by the door that we're allowing two customers at a time. We marked the floor where the customers are supposed to stand. We ask the customers to place their payment on a tray and we give them their change on the same tray. Instead of giving them the product directly, we also place the product on a tray. After that, we sanitize the tray. To do our part and to support our community, in the next few weeks, we plan to share our baked goods with front-line employees with their ID's."

Rowena Mariano of Asian Mart



"We are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. We have our hot food items as well as our frozen products, fresh vegetables and groceries. Our rice supply is still good. We get about 30 bags of the 50 lbs. each week. We're happy we can still service our loyal customers."

Em Escopete Mennel of Cupie's



"Cupie's will remain open but we are car hopping like the old days. You pull up to the parking space and friendly cashiers will be right with you taking your order using our portable devices. And the food will be brought to your car as well. You don't have to get out from the car. On the left of the parking lot are odd numbers; on the middle are even numbers; on the right against the walls are phone orders. We also accept Door Dash and Bite Squad. We're doing this to help our local community and at the same time I am thinking about our employees who also have bills to pay. We have our regular menu except our specials are limited. Our hours of operation have changed. We are open Sunday thru Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. So far we are quite busy. God bless and be safe."

Renie Menor

"COVID 19 is new to everybody. Nobody

see COVID-19 p.13



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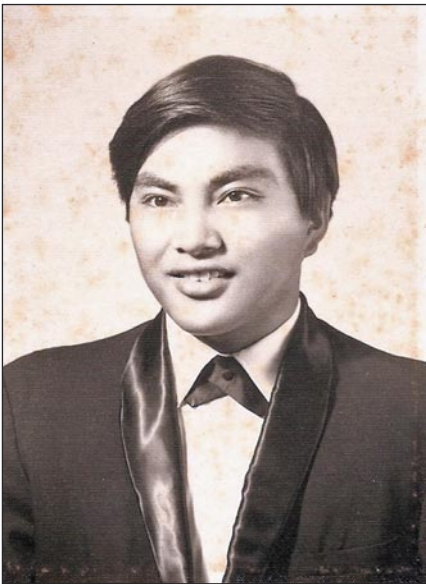
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Alvin Cortez



Graduation photo - St. Anthony High School Class of '70



Grandfather Mariano Patao in Waihe'e.

“A happy childhood is perhaps the most fortunate gift in life,” British author and journalist Dorothy Richardson once said.

This month’s featured *Sakada* Offspring, Alvin Michael Cortez shared his happy and memorable childhood he inherited from his old timer *Sakada* grandpa, Mariano Patao who came from the Philippines in the 1920’s and from his 1946 *Sakada* Dad, Pedro “Martin” “Pete” Cortez.

Alvin Cortez was born in Pu’unēnē, Maui in August 1952 to Pedro Cortez and Dolinda Patao Cortez. Alvin attended Pu’unēnē Elementary from 1957, transferred to Kahului Elementary in 1959, then to Lihikai Elementary in 1960 and attended St. Anthony High School Boys Department from

1966–1970. He attended Seattle University in 1970 and 1971. He moved back to Maui, enrolled at Maui Community College (now U.H. Maui College) from 1971–1973 and graduated.

Alvin is the eldest of seven siblings. Next is Daniel Cortez who is retired from the construction industry. He and his wife Terry who works at Pukalani Superette have one daughter Danzelle who attends King Kekaulike High School. The next sibling is Robin Cortez who is retired from UPS. He is married to Joni DeMello who works at HI Tech. Next is Glen Cortez who retired from Kula Produce. And next is

Gil Cortez, who works at Service Rentals. Alvin has two sisters, Leilani who is employed at the Grand Wailea Resort and Alisa who is employed at Andaz in Wailea. Alisa has two daughters Sydney and Jeni and one grandson, Ezekiel.

Alvin worked at the Maui Land and Pineapple fields and cannery as soon as he turned 15. “The experience taught me the value of hard work and made me more appreciative for my parents who worked hard to put a

roof over our heads and food on the table.”

After graduating from Maui Community College, Alvin was employed at the old Woolworths store at Maui Mall helping them set up the store from the ground up. He also worked at First Hawaiian Bank, Maui Hog Producers (owned by the late Mayor Elmer Cravalho), and in 1974, he finally landed a job with the County of Maui as a file clerk with the Mayor’s Office on a federal grant. In 1975, Alvin became a permanent employee with the Department of Finance Payroll Division. In 1976, he transferred to the Department of Motor Vehicles as a Driver Examiner until he retired in 2018.

Alvin married the former Stephanie Pagay of Lāna’i in 1976. They were brought up and raised from the same plantation town background where you knew everyone. Lāna’i was known as the largest pineapple plantation in Hawai’i. Alvin and Stephanie have two daughters, Nicole and Rhiana. Nicole graduated from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. She is employed at the County of Maui Council Services. She is married to Angel Kahinu. Their daughter Rhiana attended University of Hawai’i Maui College and works for 5 Palms in Wailea.

Stephanie and Alvin lived in Ha’ikū for 35 years before moving to Wailuku prior to his retirement. They were members of St. Rita’s Catholic Church in Ha’ikū and very involved in the

see CORTEZ next page



Cortez Ohana: L–R Gil, Alisa, Glen, Mom Linda, Dad Peter, Leilani, Robin, Daniel and Alvin



Al along with other driver license examiners at the DMVL.



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Cortez ...

from p. 5

church ministries presenting parish retreats and Choice, a gathering for young adults.

After the death of Alvin's father, Pedro Cortez, Stephanie and Alvin traveled from Ha'ikū to make sure his mom Dolinda attended mass at Christ The King Catholic Church, where Pedro and Dolinda were lifetime members. Presently, Stephanie and Alvin are serving as Lectors at Christ The King Church. They wanted to give back to the community that received them as new members of the parish with open arms and kindness.

Going down memory lane, Alvin said his family lived in Pu'unēnē Spanish B Camp among people of different races, close to the Pu'unēnē School and Holy Family Catholic Church. He and his brothers, Daniel and Robin would spend quite a bit of time with their grandparents Mariano and Felisa Patao in Waihe'e. They would accompany their grandpa to feed pigs in his old Willys army jeep. Since they lived close to the beach at Waihe'e, the boys were able to take part in the *hukilau* (community gathering fish with fish-nets). They usually received their



Al's First Ulua.

share of the catch by helping. Grandpa Mariano worked for Wailuku Sugar Company and Waihe'e Dairy. He raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and goats. He was an expert fisherman and good gatherer of wild vegetables in the mountain valleys.



Scuba Diving



Daughters Rhiana and Nicole.

Before Queen Ka'ahumanu Center was built, the three Cortez boys would ride their bikes or walked from their Kaiemi Street home to go fishing at the Kahului Harbor.

Alvin shared his fun memories of the past. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, diving, camping, hanging out at the beach and spending time with family. The entire Cortez clan and close friends would go on yearly camping trips mostly at Honomanū



Wedding day.



Alvin and Stephanie in 2019.

Bay in Ke'anae. They would have canoe rides and catch *o'opu* (fresh-water fish) in the river using earth worms that Grandpa Mariano Patao dug up. According to Alvin, it was at Honomanū Bay that he caught his first *ulua*!

When their children were younger, Alvin and Stephanie took them to Disneyland, Las Vegas and San Francisco. They enjoyed the rides at Disneyland where they ate their first churros (Mexican stick doughnuts). In 2008, Stephanie and Alvin

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From the Editor's Desk

Cont'd from p. 4

Stay Home ...

from p. 4

delve into God's Word and lots of prayers. As believers, we take comfort in God's promises that He is in control in all things, even with this pandemic. In the Bible, Isaiah Chapter 41:10 says, *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.* This passage reveals to us the rich promises of God and imparts to us we shouldn't be afraid because God is with us. And Psalm 46:1 assures us *God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in time of trouble.* These Bible verses give us comfort we are not facing this pandemic alone—and God is with us. When this verse describes God as our refuge, it is saying God is our safe place when we need protection from this pandemic. Knowing God is our refuge enables us to trust Him more freely. There is no situation we will ever face that is out of God's control so the best place to always be is right with Him. To calm our fears and anxiety during these challenging times—I really appreciate what Pastor Rick Warren (author of *Purpose Driven Life* and Senior Pastor of Saddleback Church) suggests we focus on:

- God sees everything I'm going

through;

- God cares everything I'm going through;
- God has the power to change what I'm going through;
- God always acts at what is good to me;
- God's plans always better than my plans;
- God will not stop loving me; and
- Remember, no matter what I'm going through, God will go through with me, and you never be alone—God is with you.

Finally, during this STAY HOME order from our government leaders, some look to this time to finish some overdue projects and perhaps begin something new that had been placed on the shelf for later. However we chose to cope, let's make it a time of personal connection, a time of creative productivity and maybe, even a time to take a break from our daily routines. One family discovered the fun of having everyone at home for a change, like having the holiday early! God bless us all and may the love of God protect us from this virus. ✨

Vince Bagoyo

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

Awry Chinese curse is “May you live in interesting times.” With Maui’s larger dependence on the Visitor Industry, we may well all be living those trials right now.

As a young man, I entered public service at a weighty moment. In 1995, I left private legal practice to work for Governor Benjamin Cayetano at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Following statehood, Hawai’i’s economy enjoyed steady and extended growth, fueled by tourism entering the jet age and construction rushing to accompany that expansion. There was a lot of optimism. After a quietly yeoman’s job of stewardship by our first American of Japanese Ancestry Governor George Ariyoshi, John Waihe’e III (our first Native Hawaiian chief executive) had overseen eight years of new initiatives.

The Cayetano team came in expecting to pursue our own list of public programs. But instead of pursuing the major planks of his campaign, we confronted an economic downturn. The Governor, after trying other ways of filling the fiscal holes, eventually implemented the first reduction-in-force of the government workforce in memory. By the end of his eight years, the Governor had also presided over strikes by both the teachers’ union and the University of Hawai’i professors, and relations with the other public unions had grown icy. Four decades of Democratic Party Governors would end with the 2002 election.

I moved home to Maui and eventually went back to private practice in Wailuku.

I returned to government in 2009 near the end of the Republican interregnum, appointed by Gov. Cayetano’s successor to fill the late Bob Nakasone’s final term in the State House. Through the grace and forbearance of Central Maui’s voters, I’ve had the privilege of serving in the Legislature since then. While we’ve dealt with budget challenges and controversial social issues, the State generally has persevered each term.

On March 16, 2020, however, something unprecedented occurred. The Legislature recessed its session indefinitely due to the growing COVID-19 pandemic. The Hawai’i Constitution envisions the House and the Senate to meet annually for up to sixty floor days—with recesses, weekends and holidays, that usually means a session starts on the third Wednesday of January and ends on the first Thursday in May.

As the impacts have spread and widespread stay at home orders issued locally, over a hundred thousand Hawai’i workers have been laid off or furloughed from restaurants, hotels and retail stores and from businesses

large and small dependent on the visitor industry. The University of Hawai’i moved to online instruction after Spring Break and the Department of Education finally decided to also pursue online classes.

Senate President Ron Kouchi, who was County Council Chair when hurricanes hit Kaua’i and Ni’ihau, understands that elected officials need to recognize their most appropriate roles. In disaster response, the main thing is identifying where you can provide the most valuable assistance. Sometimes that means talking bluntly. And harder, realizing when your initial instinct to simply speak out or complain in public is not as helpful as making a quiet suggestion.

One of the last actions the State Senate did was to move the Governor’s emergency funding request for initial COVID-19 responses. Having served at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), I found it curious that no funding was required for unemployment insurance services. With some gentle prodding of the Department and the Governor’s office, the Administration and DLIR did begin to put together a package to handle UI claims before we recessed. At the cajoling of legislators, DLIR also

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Some hoped to complete the session early but a pandemic doesn’t operate on a timetable.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

waived the usual waiting period for UI benefits and relaxed the available for work requirements (the weekly attempt to contact three employers for job placement). Unfortunately, the sheer amount of UI claims surpassed the ability of the DLIR intake system and required DLIR to add a call center and additional resources simply towards accepting and processing the claims.

Interestingly, the Governor and most of the County Mayors exempted a number of businesses as essential, including groceries and other food establishments that provided relatively modestly compensated blue-collar workers. In fact, blue-collar construction trades and repair and maintenance jobs—both private and public—also received the essential label. Almost all other retail businesses, recreational and entertainment and service work were asked to close.

Disasters can bring out both the best and worst in people. Costco lines. Toilet Tissue and Paper Towel hoard-



The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 received an update on the State’s response from Department of Health Director Dr. Bruce Anderson, State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park and State Laboratory Director Dr. Edward Desmond. The male members of the committee participated by conference all while awaiting COVID-19 test results due to exposure to one of their Senate colleagues.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

ing. The usual skeptics, cynics and conspiracy theorists (i.e., it’s just a flu; how is the government gonna enforce its lockdown orders; Matson and PASHA stopping shipments).

At the National level, a usually bitterly partisan Congress passed a trillion dollar relief package in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act. The package included an extension of the unemployment benefit and additional benefits for the lowest paid workers. CARES also makes independent contractors and the self-employed eligible for UI benefits.

CARES is expected to provide—based on population—approximately \$1,250,000,000 for Hawai’i COVID-19 relief, with 45% of the amount allocated to the City and County of Honolulu. The Governor will be working with legislators to determine the best way to spend the State’s allocation and to distribute portions of that funding to the smaller Counties.

Without active military bases and major industrial-commercial businesses, Maui depends more on the Wailea and Kā’anapali-Kapalua resorts and some construction than the other major islands for our fiscal health. One of the starkest images of the pandemic impact on Maui are the rows of idle rental cars parked on fields surrounding Kahului Airport. Maui, before the outbreak and without a fully developed public transportation system to the resort areas in South and West Maui, annually rented more vehicles than any other island, including O’ahu. The thousands of parked cars illustrated the impact of shutting down the visitor business.

Two days after flying home, al-

though asymptomatic, I began a fourteen day self-quarantine when I was informed that one of my State Senate colleagues had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. With a ninety-one year old mother that I usually see daily, it was a long two weeks. On the bright side, I had my younger sister shopping and running errands for me.

Since recessing, I’ve been working remotely—either from home or my Wailuku law office—relying on conference calls and zoom meetings with various groups. I’ve also been monitoring and commenting to colleagues in realtime the on-going work of the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 which has been providing oversight of the administration’s response. During the course of those hearings, the administration moved finally to a broader stay-at-home lockdown and quarantining air travelers arriving in Hawai’i or flying inter-island. It also revealed that the administration had not determined which state employees were essential, which ones could telework or digitally perform at home, and which ones would not be allowed to report to work but were incapable of performing their jobs remotely.

One of the greatest resources being tapped both statewide and in our county have been the capacities of our non-profits. The Hawai’i Community Foundation (HCF) with the Omidyar Foundation and other donors opened a Hawai’i Resilience Fund to quickly provide grants—one of the first was to provide mobile testing for O’ahu’s homeless camps. In addition, the HCF Strong Fund—separate pots for each island—are also available to provide recovery funding. Mayor Mike Victorino tapped former Mayor Kimo Apana and the Maui Chamber of Commerce

see TIMETABLE next page

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 **Fil-Am Voice**

Timetable ...

from p. 7

and workforce development point Linda Puppolo to come up with various efforts, including a local produce distribution for farmers who had been growing for Maui’s shuttered restaurants and hotels, and a job training and development website.

The County also provided funds to Maui Economic Development Board to have local tech companies build emergency ventilators, using an open-source design.

As I write this column, the Legislature may not return to complete the session. The Legislature adopted a two year operating budget in 2019 and was considering changes and additions in a supplemental budget this session. In theory, the 2019 budget funded State government—all three branches—for the two years of the biennium. Initially, before we recessed, there had been hope to complete the session early or to take a brief recess. But a pandemic doesn’t operate on a timetable.

The session began with a goal of passing a major package of bills aimed at the cost of living for local residents—providing state infrastructure to help spur housing development for working families, raising the minimum wage, making the earned income tax credit refundable and increasing the rental tax credit, and expanding child care opportunities. Some of those proposals seem unlikely with so many people losing jobs and many small businesses facing bleak prospects.

Nevertheless, as Winston Churchill



On March 10, Lt. Gov. Josh Green, an emergency medical doctor, addressed Maui Health System hospitalists and emergency room physicians, local clinicians and other health professionals, Mayor Michael Victorino, HealthCare Association CEO Hilton Raethel and members of the Maui legislative delegation (Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Lynn DeCoite, Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Sen. J. Kalani English, and Sen. Rosalyn Baker) at Maui Memorial Medical Center to discuss local needs for testing and medical supplies.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

said, and Rahm Emmanuel more recently observed, never let a good crisis go to waste. People have begun arguing that our current situation illustrates the problem with being too dependent on one industry and the need to diversify our local economy. I’m interested in hearing what areas people believe could thrive on Maui.

Past efforts have had mixed success and increasingly face controversy. Senator Daniel K. Inouye supported the vision of Maui business leaders in locating a super computer at Kihei’s Research and Technology Park and in funding telescopes and other facilities atop Haleakalā.

Central Maui still has a tremendous opportunity to incubate and grow health care jobs. In the corridor from the Maui Medical Group campus/ Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center to the Kaiser Clinics, Cameron Center and Maui Memorial Medical Center, quite a number of health and social services are housed and available. Maui Health System has been willing to hire and train nursing students from UH Maui College to reduce the number of travelling nurses needed at its hospitals. Training medical technicians locally is also under discussion. The John A. Burns School of Medicine, before the legislative recess, had been advocating training medical students at UH Maui College, with the plan to attract more physi-

cians for our County.

But other areas—regardless of the current emergency and the impulse to diversify the local job market—may face regulatory and local concerns and objections.

So the challenges are real. But coming out of the pandemic, we do have an opportunity to fashion the kind of community we want that can better weather the next economic storm. 🌟

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran represents Central Maui in the Hawai’i State Senate and serves as Vice-Chair of the Ways and Means Committee (the budget, appropriations and tax panel of the upper house). He is wearing a face mask fashioned by his spouse Kallie Keith-Agaran from his old Aloha Shirts.



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L–R: Lydia Coloma, Leah Agaran, Leo Koa Amarillo, Velma Coloma.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



The saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers.” This is not the case in Hawai’i. The months of February and March had a lot of rain that will bring April flowers and weeds. Due to a lot of rain, we have flood advisories or flood warnings and even tornado warnings. Tornadoes in Hawai’i? Yes, we had tornado warnings in March. On top of that, we are still

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

trying to overcome this coronavirus or COVID-19. As if we don’t have enough things going on in our island. Please

continue to do our share by staying healthy, practice good hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for

at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your face and practice social distancing. What are the things you’ve done while you were on quarantine? Visit us on our facebook page and leave us a comment at www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui. Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

“UNCLE, THIS IS ANGEL,” as she peeks out from behind him, she gives a simple hand wave. Uncle Ray grabs her *kamay* (hand) and pulls her into a giant *gagap-pan* (hug). “Mikey’s first girlfriend! I’m so *magayaya* (happy)! Your dad will be *masaya* (happy) but your mom will be more *naragsak* (happy). Welcome to the family!” Nearly crushing her with a massive *yakap* (hug), Michael pries her away. “Uncle *magimmang* (stop), please *magimmang* (stop), you’re embarrassing her!” As he let her go, he raises his *lima* (hand) and wipes his eyes. “Uncle, are you freaking crying? Sheez, come on! Go! Please, you’re embarrassing me!” “Welcome to the family Angel! You have so many more people to meet. Oops, I have said too much, haven’t I? Here, take this,” handing out a business card to Angel. “This is my card, I have my number there. You can call me anytime you need help. Remember, you are part of the family now.” He gave a smirk *ngiti* (smile) to Angel.

“Thank you, Uncle Ray,” said Angel shyly. Uncle Ray turns to Michael, “I think it’s time for you to take this *napintas* (beautiful) lady home. You have enough trouble already for the day. Where did you park? I’ll take you there before these junkies bust up your pretty *nawong* (face). Hop in.” They both obediently walk towards the police car. Michael opened the back driver side door for Angel and let her hop in then he followed.

“I parked by Foodland Uncle Ray,” said Michael as soon as Uncle Ray turned the ignition. “You know, Michae ... ” Uncle Ray said in a low tone. “Here we go,” says Michael in his mind. Uncle Ray only calls him Michael when it’s a serious talk. He means well but this is not the best time to get scolded, especially when he is with this *maanyag* (beautiful) girl. Uncle Ray continues, “You should not be going to these kinds of places especially that our homeless population is increasing. You don’t know how dangerous these people are. I would hate to see you being put away

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Keys	Susi	Tulbek	Yawe	Yabe	Annusi	Susi
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
I'm hungry	Nagugutom ako	Mabisinak	Gutom Nako	Nagutom ako	Mavisin nga	Maranup Ku
Stop!	Tigil!	Sardeng!	Paghunong!	Untat!	Magimmang!	Patugut!
Eat	Kain	Mangan	Kan-a	Kaon	Kuman	Kanan
Happy	Masaya	Naragsak	Malipayon	Masadya	Magayaya	Matula
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan

in a black body bag. If I cannot protect you, do you know what I am going to get from your *nanay* (mother)? Your crazy Filipina *nanang* (mother)? “I’m sorry Uncle. We will avoid this place and other places where the homeless hang out” is all what Michael could say. “Ok, Mikey, make good choices. And take good care of the *makasta* (beautiful) lady here. Stay out of trouble.” Uncle Ray said with a smirk on his *mukha* (face). “Thank you Uncle Ray for saving us tonight. And thank you for the ride. Good night,” says Angel. “Thank you Uncle Ray. Have a good night,” says Michael. Then they walk quietly to Michael’s 2017 Chevy Camaro Convertible.

Michael opens the passenger side of the *kotse* (car), only to crash straight into his own fender and fumble his *tulbek* (keys). Then Michael walks to the driver side, jumps in and fires up his *lugan* (car). He smiles, turns to Angel and asks “Where do you want to go *maganda* (beautiful) lady?” ANGEL: *Gutom nako* (I’m hungry). Do you want to *mangan* (eat) Filipino food? I’m craving for *dinardaraan* (chocolate meat). Do you eat that?

MICHAEL: Of course, I do. It’s Auntie Dee’s favorite. My Uncle Sonny always cooks that when we have family gatherings. *Mavisin nga* (I’m hungry) too. Where should we go? ANGEL: Hmmm ... Oh I know. How about the Ilocandia Filipino Store? MICHAEL: Oh yeah. The one that is located at the Lahaina Square Shopping Center. My mom shops for vegetables and her favorite cracker, Skyflakes there. Hmm ... I can’t wait to *kaon* (eat) ... *Mabisisinak* (I’m so hungry).

ANGEL: Let’s go before they close! Michael drove quietly and in a few minutes they reached the place. Angel couldn’t wait. She came out of the *auto* (car) as soon as Michael parked the *takay* (car) and the engine was still running. She signaled “hurry” to Michael before she entered the door. Michael turned off the engine, grabbed his wallet and hurried to catch up with Angel. When he opened the door, a distinctive smell greeted his nostrils that tells you it’s a Filipino store. Ahh ... It must be the fish sauce or the vinegar or combination of all the food that is in the food warmer. When he looked at Angel, she already ordered a plate. Angel ordered a serving of white rice,

at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your face and practice social distancing. What are the things you’ve done while you were on quarantine? Visit us on our facebook page and leave us a comment at www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui. Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

pinakbet (mixed veggies—string beans, eggplant, okra, bittermelon and tomatoes) and chicken *adobo*. “Can you order the *dinardaraan* (chocolate meat) and I will just share with you? Thanks ... ” Angel said without waiting for an answer. Michael ordered half a serving of white rice, half a serving of *pancit* (noodles), *dinardaraan*, it’s also called *dinuguan* (chocolate meat) and *tortang talong* (eggplant with egg). They paid and went out to find a table. Angel chose the one in the corner. They sat down and started eating. “Here, try the *dinuguan* (chocolate meat),” Michael spooned a decent portion and said “Open!” Angel hesitated. “I’ll try not to miss it if you open wide enough.” She opened her mouth and the warm concoction was deliciously satisfying. He said nothing as she chewed, just watched her, with a big *isem* (smile) until she swallowed. He fed her the next bite, “*Kuman* (eat)!” He was about to feed her another bite but Angel scooped some chicken *adobo* and she fed him. The food was so delicious that he closed his eyes to savor it. “Open up, *malagu* (beautiful), it tastes good as you.” His words tickled her ears which made her *rupa* (face) flush red as she tried to suppress a *pahiyum* (smile). Taking turns feeding each other, they discussed their favorite foods, their plans for the weekend and their memorable places they’ve ever been. Her stories excited him and his jokes made her laugh so loud. Michael doesn’t want the night to end but it’s getting late. Uncle Ray’s voice is echoing in his ear. “It’s getting late. I should take you home before we get into another situation and Uncle Ray is not here to protect us.” “Yes, we better get going,” Angel agreed. “Will you be okay driving from Lahaina to Pā’ia? It’s going to be a long drive.” The drive to Pā’ia was quiet. Michael kept sneaking side glances to Angel who was so quiet and occupied. “When will I see you again,” he asked.

see LET’S TALK PINOY next page

Biblical Plagues Offer Insight in the Wake of COVID-19

The Rev. John A.H. Tomosot



The First Plague: “Water Is Changed Into Blood,” was illustrated by James Tissot.

In the Book of Exodus, there are ten plagues (disasters) that are chronicled. These are ten disasters inflicted on Egypt by *Yahweh*, the God of Israel. Exodus tells the greatest story of Israel’s history, when Abraham’s descendants escaped from cruel slavery in Egypt. You can read it for yourself and you will find Exodus divided into two parts; the first part, Exodus 1 through 18, is about The Great Escape and the second part, Exodus 19 through 40, is about The Great Covenant.

So, the Plagues of Egypt, in Hebrew מִצְרַיִם (Makot Mitzrayim), were inflicted on the people because Pharaoh, the Egyptian King, refused to let the Israelites (God’s People) leave Egypt. These plagues (disasters), were seen by the Israelites as signs and marvels given by *Yahweh* (God) as answers, by God, to Pharaoh’s refusal, so that the Egyptians might know that *Yahweh* is the Lord.

What were these Plagues? First there was water turning into blood (Exodus 7:14–24) with the River Nile changed into blood. The Egyptians were not able to drink its water. Then there were Frogs (Exodus 7:25–8:15) with the Lord saying, “Let my people

go, so that they may worship me.” The Nile, indeed all of Egypt, teemed with frogs. Oh, then how about the gnats or lice (Ex. 8:16–19) which infected both people and animals with all the dust throughout Egypt becoming lice. (Ah, don’t start scratching yourself!) The fourth plague was of creatures capable of harming people and livestock (Ex. 8:20–32), in Hebrew בֹּרֶךְ (‘arob), as in mixture or swarm. Here Pharaoh asked Moses to remove this plague, promising to grant the Israelites their freedom. You know the rest of this part of the story. Pharaoh refused to keep his promise! So, the fifth plague came; Pestilence of livestock (Exodus 9:1–7), with *Yahweh* saying that if Pharaoh again refuses to let the Israelites go, “the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field, on your horses, donkeys, and camels, on your cattle, sheep and goats.” Obviously, all four-legged animals dropped dead and Egypt went hungry. With nothing happening from the Palace of Pharaoh, *Yahweh* commanded Moses to take handfuls of soot from a furnace and “toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh (Exodus 9:8–12). Festering

see **PLAGUES** p.14

Cortez ...

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were fortunate to take a trip to China. There they experienced climbing the Great Wall of China, seeing the thousands of stone warrior statues and excavation sites in Xian, eating lots of delicious Chinese food, and shopping. They also visited Beijing, Suzhou, and Shanghai.

Alvin and Stephanie enjoyed their many trips to Lāna‘i to visit Stephanie’s parents and relatives. Alvin reminisces when he and his father-in-law went on a fishing trip on his boat catching *aku*, *kawakawa*, and *mahimahi*. He even learned from his father-in-law how to look for and catch *tako* (octopus) in the shallow waters of Lāna‘i.

Alvin was more than happy to share his reflection on his job as a Driver Examiner. Working at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) afforded Alvin a lot of interesting encounters with the public. “When tak-



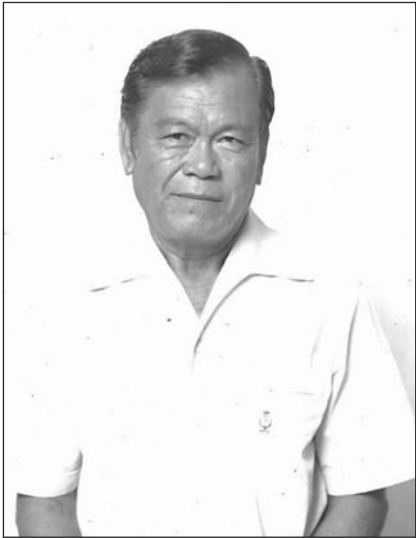
Holy Communion at Holy Family Church in Pu‘unēnē.

ing a driver on the road test, I try to make them as comfortable as possible. When a person tells me that they’ve tried a number of times to get their license and failed, I try to lighten the encounter by telling them,

see **CORTEZ** p.14



Grandmother Felisa Patao.



Grandfather Mariano Patao.

Let’s Talk Pinoy! Cont’d from p. 9

Angel opened her mouth to answer, she realized she didn’t have an answer so she shut it.

“I had a great day today. It was a great adventure with you. Can I see you tomorrow,” he asked again.

“How about I call you to let you know,” Angel answered in a low voice.

Michael raked a hand through his hair. He wanted to see her again. In fact, he wanted to be with her all the time. He’s *malipayon* (happy) when he’s with her. Doesn’t she like me? Or does she have a boyfriend?

“You can just drop me off in front of the post office,” Angel interrupted his thoughts.

Drop off a *maganda* (beautiful) lady at a post office? Late at night? “I can drop you to your house,” he offered.

“No, here is fine,” said Angel who opened the door as soon as the *sakyanan* (car) stopped. “I had a great time today. Thank you,” and exited the *sasakyan* (car).

Hmmmm ... why does Angel not want Michael to drop her to her house? Why can’t she give an answer when can he see her again? Find out and 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 *making* (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 Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.



Kwento Kwentuhan

Advice for COVID19 from Stephanie Yan, MD

Maui doctor gives practical advice for now and until the Novel Coronavirus pandemic passes.

Liza of "A Maui Blog"

It's been a whirlwind these past few weeks! How are you doing?

This COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has affected many areas of our lives. It has caused not only a health crisis but also an economic crisis. Now, we are all trying to do our part in preventing the spread of this virus so it comes to pass. And we are all praying this pandemic passes quickly.

In this edition of Kwento-Kwentuhan, I would like to share with you a letter by one of our island doctors, Stephanie Yan, MD. You can also find her on Instagram at @island-Family-Surgeon. I think it is very important to share this with our community. It is also very important that we do what she recommends:

To the Community,

We don't have a lot of immediate control on the number of tests done, contact tracing and isolating COVID19+ persons, but we can give ourselves power in reducing the spread of the COVID19 disease and in reducing the bad outcomes from the disease by:

- 1) Social distancing and following Stay-at-Home and Shelter-at-Home regulations;
- 2) Wear masks when we can't socially distance from others. We can make masks that are reusable and ones that stay dry to protect ourselves and protect others from us who may be unknown carriers (those with symptoms and those without symptoms) when we can't socially distance like at the grocery store.
- 3) Based on proposed theories on how the virus causes severe disease, here are things you can do to stay out of the hospital:

- A) Plenty of exercise - move your muscles to boost up your immune system AND it also helps to keep up your fibrinolytic system (the system that breaks up clots in your vessels). Sitting around makes you prone to clotting. And this COVID19 disease might be severe in people more prone to clotting. Get moving! #1 way to avoid severe COVID19 disease.

- B) Take Vitamin C, hydrate well and have plenty of food rich in Vitamin C. Vitamin C has been shown to help prevent blood clots.

- C) Get plenty of sunshine on as much skin as possible. Sunbathe up to 15 minutes at a time. If you sunbathe longer, put on sunblock. Get out in the sun to increase your production of Vitamin D. Vitamin D has been shown to decrease your risk of blood clots.

- D) Get plenty of fresh air. Open up all your windows and doors. Make sure fresh air is flowing through your house. Sleep or rest outdoors as much as possible.

Anecdotal stories in past flu pandemics showed doctors who treated their patients in areas with fresh air and good sunlight had patients doing better than those patients who didn't get fresh air and good sunlight.

- E) Avoid smoking, nicotine, not moving, and excessive carbs/sugars and saturated fats (these increase inflammation and make one prone to clotting).

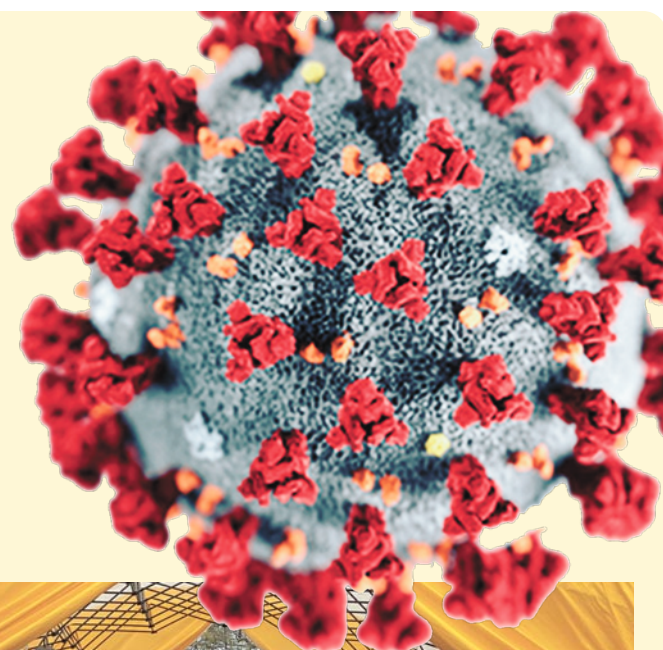
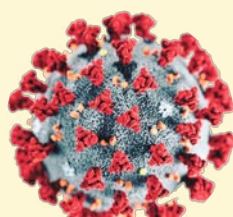
PLEASE share with others! Thank you. ✨

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 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.



Staff - ER Team - We Stay At Work

PHOTO: MAUI HEALTH VIA @WEAREMAUIHEALTH ON INSTAGRAM. USED WITH PERMISSION. VISIT WWW.MAUIHEALTH.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS AND OTHER HEALTH RELATED TOPICS ON MAUI.



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Nicole Anne Guzman



Mark Berzabal



Aubrey Santiago

Now a pandemic, COVID-19 has changed the lives of many around the globe since its emergence in December of 2019. Originating in Wuhan, China, the mobility of today’s society has made the spread of the virus not only easier but more widespread. As of early April, over a million cases were reported, including the United States with the highest number of cases in the world, surpassing China and Italy, previous epicenters of the virus. In efforts to flatten the curve, many states have encouraged their residents to practice social distancing and self-quarantine, putting events on hold and closing many establishments. The establishments closed include schools across Hawai‘i.

The uncertainty of the virus and its impact on student life has left many wondering, “What next?” This is especially true for our Seniors. After four years of long nights, due dates, and hard work, the virus has left high school seniors wondering if they could even enjoy the event that they dedicated so much to—graduation. In this time of isolation, Seniors ponder what will come out of all this chaos.

Nicole Anne Guzman, a senior at Maui High School, looks back on her initial reaction to the virus. “At first I thought the coronavirus wasn’t going to be something to worry about because I heard studies showing that the mortality rate is only about 2–3 percent.” Within a few weeks though, Nicole started to realize the reality of it all. “A few weeks have passed and I didn’t think it would get this serious but now it is considered a pandemic.” When the Department of Education started to extend spring break and close schools across the state, Nicole began to go into a state of shock. However, Nicole says “I understand since safety is first and the DOE are just taking precautions to reduce the amount of those who are infected with the virus.” An avid member of Maui High School’s Colorguard and Winterguard, Nicole was looking forward to ending her last season with a bang at the annual Maui High School Band Spring Con-

cert, canceled in light of the pandemic. “I was anticipating my last winter guard show as I have been a part of the Maui High School Colorguard for the past four years,” Guzman says. However saddening it may be to miss the last performance of her guard career, there is one major event that she was anticipating over anything. “Most importantly, I was looking forward to graduation. I have been waiting my whole life to walk on the line and be lei’d from my neck up along with the rest of my class.” Although she may be missing the rest of her senior year, Nicole treats this experience as a lesson and offers some advice for upcoming seniors. “I highly suggest to make it the best one yet. It is your last year so participate in every spirit week, go to school games and be nice to those around you, you’ll never know what is going to happen. This year is a great example of how you should never take anything for granted.” After everything, Nicole thinks that “It would be hard to go back to ‘normal’ because people will be more cautious with one another. However, I hope the situation that we are in right now is a great lesson of not taking anything for granted and appreciate those who are around you and those who are risking their lives right now during this crisis.”

Mark Berzabal, a senior, shares his take on the coronavirus’s arrival. “My initial reaction to the coronavirus was that it wasn’t a big deal and it would just be a funny meme we could look back on. I never predicted it would be as serious as it is now and it really caught me off guard.” A committed athlete and member of the Maui High Boys Varsity Track team, Mark saw

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Is Not Everything...

The COVID Conundrum

Alexis Joy Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

“Something I was looking forward to my senior year was attending all the track meets we had scheduled and ... having a good time with my teammates and coaches.”

– MARK BERZABAL

how serious the virus would be when it affected sports practices and events across the state. “I started realizing that the coronavirus would take a toll on my senior year when they started extending our spring break and canceled all of our sports practices.” While he hoped he could finish his last season of track, Mark also looks at the reality of it all. “The thoughts that came in my head were honestly hoping to get back and practice but also realizing how hard it’ll be to bounce back into the sport with so little facilities available for many people around the island.” Before everything, all Mark wanted to do was enjoy the season with his team. “Something I was looking forward to my senior year was attending all the track meets we had scheduled and just honestly having a good time with my teammates and coaches.” Even as the rest of his final year of high school is put on hold, Mark reflects on what he already did to enjoy his senior year. “Some great memories I have of my senior year were attending football and basketball games with my friends because we all really like sports, watching and cheering super loud with them made it very worthwhile,” says Berzabal.

Aubrey Santiago, also a senior at Maui High School, recounts what she first thought of coronavirus. “When the topic of the coronavirus started to be publicized, especially on

the news, it felt unreal. I didn’t know at the time that it would become so big and would affect so many people.” Not expecting the impact it would have on the world, Aubrey shares the feeling that the subject ignites in her. “I get sad at times just thinking about it and watching the news has become an evening norm at my house. I had a feeling that it would get serious and overwhelming around the world because of how easy it is contracted, but I just hope that everyone who was affected recover and numbers start to decrease!” With the situation escalating so quickly, Aubrey was suddenly hit with news she never would have expected. “I think that the idea of the coronavirus taking a toll on my senior year only had hit me the weekend before us students were supposed to go back to school the following week,” Santiago says. An active student around the school, Aubrey and her peers dealt with all of the last minute cancellations due to the virus. “Almost all the emails that I was getting were push-backs from school-start dates to extracurricular event cancellations. I was devastated.” With much still not known about the virus, all of the news left Aubrey wondering what would come next. “The uncertainty to what’s left of my senior year and not having the heads up of that last day before Spring Break to be my ‘last day’ as a senior makes me nervous yet optimistic about what is to come in the future.” On an optimistic note, Aubrey looks at the best parts of her time during this school year. “My best memories of my senior year would probably revolve around all the people that I have met and come to form such strong relationships with. Over the course of four years, I have really gotten out of my shell and come to know amazing people!” Aubrey has high hopes for humanity after the situation comes to a close. “I hope that this brings into light how important self-care, health-

see CONUNDRUM p.14

COVID-19 ...

from p. 4



knew how destructive this virus was until we have seen the results of people dying by the hundreds everyday. Since we got hit with this virus and lock down was ordered, business has been slow (sales wise) but we are still consistent in servicing our family. I've been more cautious and more careful on things I touch and people I encounter everyday. Sometimes, I try to avoid watching the news because it's so depressing to see the number of people die everyday because of COVID 19. At work they cut our working days to four days only now. On the other hand, it taught me how to use virtual presentation, so I can still work and help families via Skype or Zoom without worrying about social distancing. My personal life has changed as we pray more now as a family instead of individually."

Monica Natividad, RN, CNOR, RNFA



"It is a blessing for me to be working in the Operating Room at Maui Memorial Medical Center. I have been employed there for almost 23 years now. I was the first Filipina RN to be sent to New Mexico in 2005 to become an RN First Assistant (RNFA). The hospital sent three certified RNs in the OR at that time to assist surgeons as needed. It was the first time that the hospital was utilizing RNs to assist instead of a retired surgeon, fellow surgeon, or Physician Assistant (PA). The COVID 19 global pandemic crisis has affected each one of us in different ways. The use of PPE (personal protective equipment) is vital in caring for patients undergoing surgeries. Fortunately, I have not assisted in any surgical procedure for a patient

with confirmed COVID 19, nor for a patient who can be a possible carrier of the virus. Since this pandemic crisis happened, I learned to become more conscientious of what I do in the OR daily to conserve our PPE supplies due to its shortage. Social distancing has prevented me from being able to hug, kiss and see my twenty one month old grandson. It is emotionally and psychologically disturbing for me to work in the hospital setting during this crisis knowing that I am putting myself and my family in danger each time I take care of patients who can possibly be COVID carriers. Family and friends are very supportive especially my husband, Jorge Natividad, and my son, Ryan Jeremy Natividad and my daughter, Ria Lei Marie Natividad, during this overwhelming crisis. I am looking forward to the time when this pandemic will stop, enabling everyone to go back to their normal daily activities. Stop the COVID community spread. Do your part by washing your hands frequently and practicing social distancing."

Teresita Noble of Noble Travel



"We closed our offices on March 23. All those passengers that have been issued tickets, their money is with the airlines and we will assist them to get refunds or travel vouchers. Once the close order is lifted, they can contact us for assistance. I know everybody is trying to call but we're restricted from going to our office. Please be patient and we hope that everybody will be okay. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to serving you again very soon."

I applied for the Pay check Protection Program through my bank, Central Pacific Bank, who sent me the paperwork. It was easy to fill out and I encourage all employers to apply and take advantage of the program."

Rose Anne Rafael

"Recently, Maui's economy and occupations were severely affected by the coronavirus. I am one of those whose occupation and education



got affected by the COVID-19. The pandemic has forcibly temporarily closed my job and altered my education by switching to an online school. Currently not having a job for a while has affected me financially. As a working student, I have personal finances that I am obligated to pay such as credit cards and phone bills. Despite the crisis that I have been facing, I have tried to apply for unemployment and I am waiting for their response. The pandemic also affected my Mom who used to work at Aston Whalers in Kā'anapali. After spring break, University of Hawai'i Maui College decided to switch to online classes until the end of the semester. Personally, doing online classes is not the best way for me to learn because I don't do well with making the time to sit in front of the computer to do my assignments. I often get distracted and I have to be more alert in finishing due dates of assigned works. I believe that all of us have been affected by COVID 19, whether in a little or larger reason. Although, as a community, we could help one another to stop the spread by complying with the stay at home order, practicing social distancing, wearing a mask in public, and often washing our hands properly. Together, we can stop this virus and bring our Island of Maui back to its alive, vibrant, healthy, and economically friendly community."

JR Regalado



"In the month of March, I was temporarily laid off from my full-time job. It was a sad moment for me as it was my first time being laid off. These past few weeks like many citizens in Maui who were laid off, I felt the frustration applying for unemployment online. With the high volume, it was hard to get in and it took me several attempts just to get in and apply. It was my very first time filing and I've been

asking friends, co-workers for assistance and our Human Resources for guidance on how it works. I just found out the other day my cousin also got laid off and is now filing unemployment as well. I fear if this virus continues in the long term and citizens and tourists don't comply with local or state government rules, it will be hard for many of us to get by doing our daily routines and flattening the curve. My hopes like everyone is we all pray that we will get through this together. We need the community to help each other out especially our front liners and first responders—let's give them the love and support. My advice if anyone has a friend, family member or knows anyone working in the medical fields, please send them a message to thank them for their service and helping our community be safe. Being laid off from my full-time job, I've been staying at home mostly. I only leave the house for essential items that are needed at home. I also have my part-time job which I work only one day a week to help my financial needs. I have also been watching the news daily for updates on what is happening across the state and around the world."

Cheryl and Mike Rock of Mele Ukulele



As is the case with so many small businesses on Maui, Mele Ukulele is very much affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We shut down our retail stores in response to the call for closure of non essential businesses, shelter in place, etc. thereby displacing our 10-employee work force, halting sales and income we need to address our overhead expenses of rent, salaries, insurances, utilities, etc. While we deal with the financial difficulties and economic challenges and uncertainties, we choose to stay positive, hopeful and prayerful that this pandemic will end soon. We focus our attention and efforts in doing what we can to help mitigate the spread and flatten the curve. We would like to salute and express our heartfelt *mahalo nui loa* to all

see COVID-19 p.15

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... or this

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Cortez ...

from p. 10

‘maybe you should ride a bike.’ They usually laugh and feel a little more at ease. When a driver failed the test, I would try to take a little time letting them know what they did wrong and how to correct their mistakes. I would often get reprimanded for taking ‘a little too long’ doing tests. I remember that I’m a public servant and should offer my assistance to help and encourage the drivers to do better and become good drivers on Maui County roads.”

One of Alvin’s role models in life is his father, the late Pedro Cortez, a 1946 *Sakada*. This writer had the privilege of talking with him when he was still alive. Pedro shared he was one of

the first batches of the 1946 *Sakadas* who came to Hawai’i to work in the sugar and pineapple plantations. He was born on July 19, 1926 in Paing, Bantay, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. He was a young man of 19 when he boarded *SS Maunawili* at Port Salomague to come to Hawai’i on December 15, 1945. He remembered being transported to the *SS Maunawili* on a raft and climbing up on a rope because Port Salomague was too shallow for big boats to land. He signed up to come to Hawai’i to find a better life for him and his family.

The boat ride to Hawai’i was not always pleasant. Many of the men got seasick throughout the rough voyage. Someone even died on the boat according to Pedro. They couldn’t keep the dead body on board and it was too far to go back to the shore. So, the

dead body was buried at sea.

On January 1, 1946, *SS Maunawili* stopped in Hilo, Hawai’i to drop off some of the *Sakadas* and on the next day, January 2, 1946, it arrived at Kahului Harbor. A Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar (HC&S) truck was waiting for the *Sakadas* to transport them to their designated camps. They were first taken to Spanish B and at “Hale Ono,” an eatery to eat breakfast. There, they were given their supplies such as a kerosene stove, blanket, and a bag of rice. On January 3, 1946, Pedro reported to work in the sugarcane field. His jobs at HC&S consisted of cutting grass, cutting cane with cane knife (stalks for planting). “It was a hard job,” Pedro sighed.

After Spanish B, Pedro lived at Camp 3, a camp near Spreckelsville and at Camp 5 near the Holy Family Catholic Church in Pu’unēnē. Anything they bought from Camp 5 Store was paid through credit, meaning the charges were deducted from their paycheck every month. All they had to do

was to present their *bango* number.

Pedro lived in a two-bedroom plantation house with other *Sakadas* like the late Juan Obrero and Estaquio Cortez. They had fun living in the camp with lots of activities especially dances according to Pedro.

Pedro was a handsome young man. There was a woman named Feliza Patao who was working at the old Kress Store in Wailuku. She had a beautiful daughter. When she spotted Pedro at the store, she had a good idea of becoming a matchmaker. So, she arranged a way for Pedro to meet her daughter, Dolinda Patao. It worked! Although Dolinda did not care too much about Pedro at first, their love grew as time went by. Their courtship blossomed and in 1952, they got married at St. Ann’s Church and had their reception at the Pu’unēnē Filipino Clubhouse. Their love produced seven children as mentioned by Alvin.

Pedro and Dolinda Cortez enjoyed traveling. They enjoyed ballroom dancing and participated in showcases even as far as Las Vegas. Pete and Dolinda were a couple who enjoyed life together and became a good role model for their seven children.

Pedro’s advice to young people was to get a good education because a good education guides everyone to find a better job. To older people like him, he said to take good care of oneself through exercise and watch what to eat.

Alvin’s own advice is “There should be a balance between attaining your life goals and aspirations and trying to maintain a spiritual life; for man’s wisdom



Early years:
L–R, Me, Mom holding brother Robin, Dad and brother Daniel.

Ating Kabuhayan | Cont'd from p. 10

Plagues ...

from p. 10

boils then broke out on men and animals throughout Egypt.

You know what didn’t happen. Yahweh again said, “Let my people go” and let Pharaoh know that if he again refused, He would send the full force of his power and might “against you and against your officials and your people ... so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.” (Exodus 9:13–35) Pharaoh was warned that if he did not let the Israelites go, *Yahweh* would send the worst hailstorm that had ever fallen on Egypt. Exodus chronicles that it was the worst storm, with thunderstorms and lightening, that the Egyptians ever suffered, with many deaths of people and animals. What happened yet is the plague that has always fascinated me since the first time I heard about it. Locusts came and voraciously devoured everything, leaving little left for the people! (Exodus 10: 1–20). Exodus chronicles that this was something “neither your fathers nor your forefathers had ever seen.” *Yahweh* asked Pharaoh, “How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Next came darkness for three days.” (Exodus 10: 21–29). *Yahweh* wanted darkness to “spread over Egypt” so that darkness “can be felt.” It was like a “stay-at-home” quarantine for all of Egypt, as all really felt dark, alone and utterly helpless and afraid!

Now, what happened next, with the Israelites still enslaved in Egypt, was truly gruesome and awful. *Yahweh* said He would go throughout Egypt, and have every firstborn son in Egypt die, including the firstborn son of Pharaoh (Exodus 11:1–12:36). Exodus chronicles that there was much loud wailing such as never was heard in Egypt, even at the Palace of the Pharaoh. (Remember, that before this final plague, *Yahweh* commands Moses to tell the Israelites to mark a lamb’s blood above their doors in order that *Yahweh* will pass over them, meaning that their firstborn

would not be touched by death, as He passed over them. If this sounds familiar to you, as faithful Christians, think about how Christ instituted the *Eucharist* (Mass) at a Passover Meal (*Sedar*) he was attending before he was crucified. Needless to say, bereft of all sense of power and subjugation, Pharaoh orders the Israelites to leave and to take whatever they want. He even asks Moses to bless him in the name of the Lord!

What does this story of the Plagues of Egypt mean for us, in this time of COVID-19 and quarantine and great economic upheaval? Well, I think that if we look to Part Two of Exodus, Chapters 19 through 40, which chronicles The Great Covenant of God with His People, we know that *Yahweh* gives us all we need to live through this plague, this disaster, if we believe and observe what He has given us, His Faithful People. I think that this time of COVID-19 and quarantine and great economic upheaval, gives us pause to reflect on our relationship with God and with one another. “The Great Covenant” gives us clues for our daily living, right here, right now! 🌸

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, Min-



nesota (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.

Conundrum ...

from p. 12

wise, is and to appreciate all of the healthcare workers that make a difference in our lives. It will be a slow re-opening of everything, but hopefully, everyone will have a sense of relief that it’s over.”

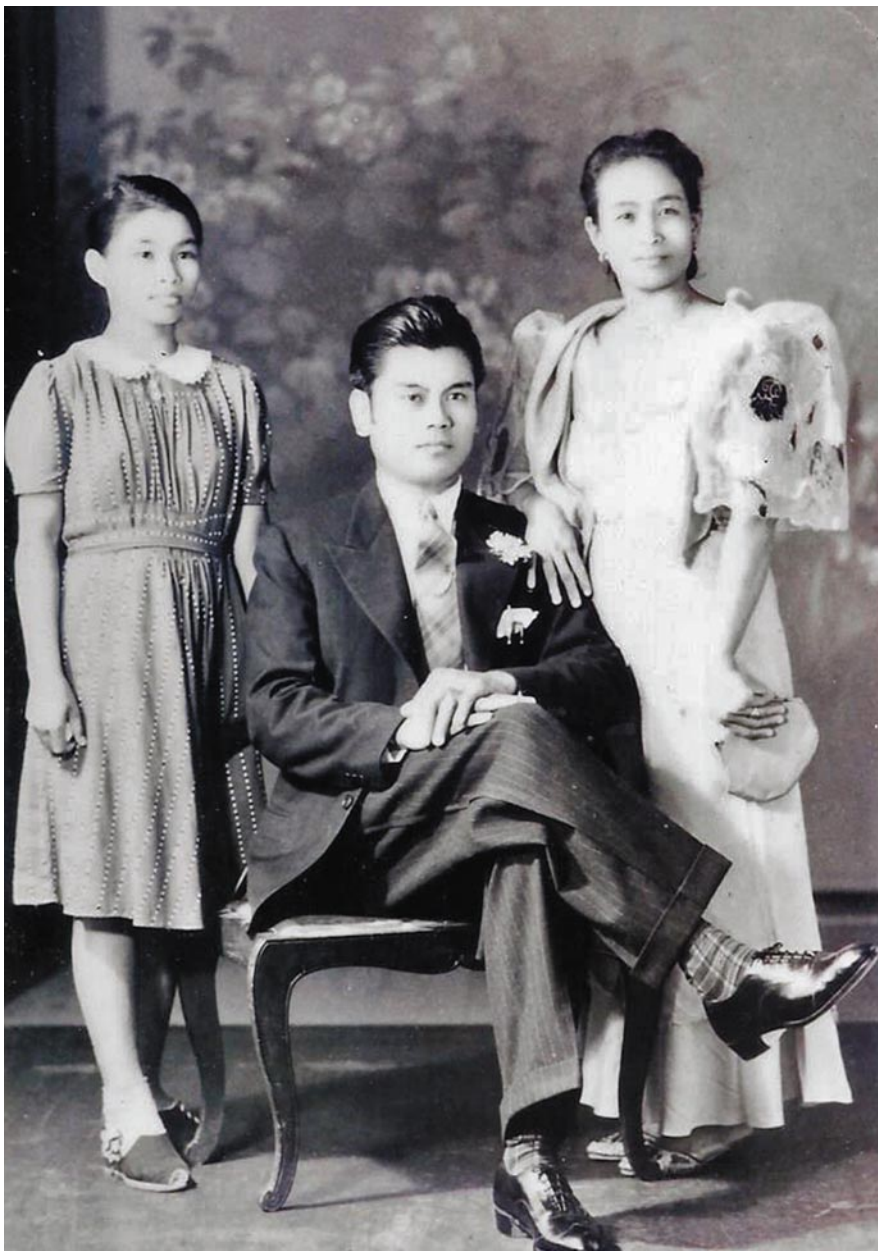
It is no doubt the Class of 2020’s senior year is not turning out as expected but the positivity heading into this situation will be worth the effort. The coronavirus has altered daily life with its worldwide effects. In order to nurse the Earth’s population back to health, it is everybody’s duty to stay inside to flatten the curve. Missing out on significant events they’ve been waiting all their lives for, this year’s seniors know

that it will be tough to deal with but in the end, it’s all about being able to get through it for the sake of their community and the world. 🌸

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 **Alexis Joy Viloria**, a Junior at Maui High School. She is the founder and President of Maui High’s SaberScribes, their journalism club. Alexis is also a committed member of HOSA-Future Health Professional as the Secondary Representative of the Hawai’i HOSA Executive Council and a state gold medalist. Alexis hopes to one day become a Pediatric Physician. She is the daughter of Alex and Juvy Viloria.



Mother Dolinda Cortez, Grandfather Mariano Patao and Grandmother Felisa Patao.



Mom and Dad, Dolinda and Pedro Cortez.

is foolishness in God's eyes." ✨
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.

COVID-19 ...

from p. 13

the doctors, nurses and frontliners who are working tirelessly and selflessly to protect us. Be well and stay safe. Aloha."

Philip Sabado of Sabado Art Studios



"My New Year's Resolution was the same thing, every year. 'I gotta paint.' There were so many paintings that I wanted to begin as well as finish. When a commission came, they were pushed away until later. I spoke too soon as the world just weeks ago came to a screeching halt. Now I have all the time I need. On my last day at our studio in Wailuku, I packed the car with canvases and all my paints, oils and watercolors. They say we can make lemonade from lemons, and I saw my time was unfortunately in the midst of a global tragedy. I make some time for prayer daily and challenge myself to do at least a painting a day. Funny thing, they are all about my childhood home on Molokai in Maunaloa camp. Maybe revisiting my simple plantation life makes the hours pass quickly. I found a place upstairs where I play my Filipino music and before I know it is already dark, and time for dinner. My work on commissions can continue from home, as well. As far as the business goes, this will be a long way back to a new normal. We just opened our first Gallery, Sabado Gallery & Boutique in Wailea; our grand opening was in mid-November. It took over a year with permits and all the proper decor and signage to open our doors. It is an amazing place, and we were steadily building our clientele in the high-end world of Wailea. As an optimist I choose to see the light at the end of the tunnel and know that for the moment I remember my Moms words: 'Family first.' On a personal note we did have a family member pass away from the virus in the Philip-

pines. Our son Erin's wife's, Kindra, Auntie Corazon, lived in Quezon City and hosted us for an entire month when we went to visit a couple of years ago. We are so devastated by this news. This terrible and challenging time has become personal for our family. Please keep the family in your prayers."

Leonida Salaguinto of JMA Imports



"For now, we are still open but only from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. We're exercising the six foot rule and our employees have their masks and gloves on. The supply of frozen food, groceries, and fresh vegetables are still ongoing. We're busy because there's no swap meet. We also have our religious statues and orchids. We pray this pandemic will end soon but in the meantime we are here to serve you."

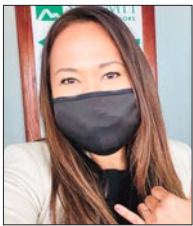
Michelle Santos



"I'm an essential worker for the County of Maui, so I'm at work five days a week and worked an evening shift to assist in the call center to answer questions from the community about the Mayor's stay at home directive. My employment was not affected and the County Building is currently closed to the public. All areas are being cleaned three times more than normal. We are required to carry our ID in order to go to different floors in the building. The majority of documents are transmitted via email or fax. Meetings are done through video conference. I'm concerned people are not taking this seriously and are breaking the rules. The community needs to stay home and obey the directive. I now understand why other people were extra cautious with cleanliness before the virus. I'm grateful that I still have a job but sad that so many people are suffering. I don't feel that I changed at all except that I'm blessed for having

friends and family who have reached out to help my family."

Elsa Agdinaoy Segal of Summit Financial Planners



"The biggest impact of the pandemic is closing the office temporarily and not being able to have face-to-face meetings with clients. Because our occupation is considered essential, we immediately transitioned to working remotely and adopted video conferencing. For clients who don't have access to this, we are meeting with them outside their home with proper protection and following distancing guidelines per CDC. Also, I notice an increased interest in legacy and estate planning concerns. Due to the non discriminating and aggressive nature of this virus, people (younger than normal) are concerned about what may happen if they get sick or die prematurely. In my twelve years as a financial advisor, this is pretty unusual. Most people under 50 don't like to think about this area of financial planning so soon. But I totally understand. This is a genuine concern for a lot people young and old. It can be worrisome to think about what's going to happen to your life as you know if you don't survive. I'm advising clients to just be prepared—as that is all we pretty much have control over."

Limuel Soller



"The COVID-19 outbreak has brought disappointment for me and this situation has put me through the most difficult situation in my life. I am currently unemployed due to the temporary shutdown of my employer. It has tested my budgeting skills as I am struggling to provide food and groceries for my family and pay the bills on time. My classmates and I have to learn through online classes, which include

all the hands-on activities. It is hard to gain true experience when everything is performed through looking at a screen."

Leizl Tabon, CPA of Levin & Tabon, CPAs



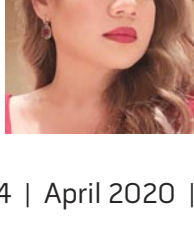
"We've been through recessions before but nothing like what's happening with COVID-19. With previous economic slowdowns, there would still be some people traveling here. However, with this pandemic, everything has come to a screeching halt. And to make matters worse, it is impacting all businesses not just tourist based ones. While these drastic measures are necessary, the ripple effect of this lock-down is going to have an effect on our small businesses for an undetermined amount of time. It is imperative for all levels of government to focus on providing small businesses with the assistance and resources they need to weather this storm. Without it, countless businesses will be forced to close their doors, further devastating our small island community."

Lydia Torres



"I have to collect unemployment. My place of employment is closed until April 30. But at least I can stay home with my kids. It's hard because we can't see relatives and friends."

Roseminic Ulep of Ride Assist of Maui, LLC and Foster Care Home Operator



"As a small business owner, this pandemic is really affecting everyone. In a very short amount of time, I can already see the difference especially with my

see COVID-19 back page

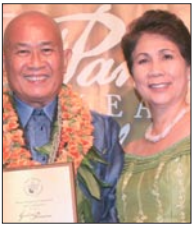
COVID-19 ...

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transportation services. A lot of the regular trips are already cut down into half and that means less work for the workers, and less revenue for the company. If this will prolong, I won't be able to survive and cover the expenses, it will force me to shut down my business. On the other hand, operating the care home is not as bad as the rest at the moment. I'm crossing my fingers that it will remain this way. I'm hoping that it will not lead to what I'm expecting which is the longer this COVID 19 is not under control, eventually HMOs will run out of funding and care givers will not be able to get reimbursement. The majority of the operators' bread and butter is care giving and if we have mortgages or rents and other bills and will not get paid, I will not be able to afford to continue caring for the patients. How are we going to make it through this situation if ever we get to that point? Where will our patients go? What will the State do to help in this predicament to avoid re-homing the

elderly and who will take them? At this time, there are so many what ifs because we are not certain what is going to happen. I cannot help but assume the unknown. It creates so much anxiety. As of right now, I am taking it day by day and not get ahead of myself and worrying about the nonsense. I try to think positive and stay healthy so I can continue to provide the care and services for our *kūpuna*. I hope and pray that we will get through this soon."

Tante and Telly Urban of Tante's Island Cuisine



"Telly and I are saddened as we had to close Tante's Island Cuisine in Kahului because Maui Seaside told us we could not even open for take-out. In fact, if you drive by, you will see the entrance barricaded by vehicles and fencing. We are saddened because we had to lay off about twenty employees, who we consider as part of our family. We hope this pandemic will lessen soon so we can re-open and

serve our loyal customers. Telly and I are also unable to travel to Maui right now to visit our Maui friends whom we miss very much. Please take care and be safe until we are able to see each other again."

Joselito Yuzon of Johnstone Supply



"It is in utter disbelief that I am writing on what we can call a 360-degree turn in the lives of humankind. A turn that is happening so fast that caught millions unaware until they hit a brick wall. Although I will not discuss the unimaginable loss of lives brought by this pandemic COVID-19, this tragedy brought a ripple effect in the everyday life of all people. The unbelievable number of business closures was unprecedented as those categorized as non-essential were forced to close as required by law, e.g. dine-in restaurants, gyms, golf courses, spas, theaters, etc. The requirement to quarantine in-state and out-of-state travelers led to the cancellation of flights thereby causing the loss of business for hotels and lodging establishments leading to their closure. The chain reactions goes down the line. These business closures led to thousands of lost jobs causing anxiety and despair to employees and business owners. For our business, we supply wholesale refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, parts and controls to grocery stores, hospitals and residences is 'lucky' to be considered essential and is open for business. Lucky might be an understatement as we lost an unquantifiable number of customers like hotels, restaurants and home owners who lost their jobs and cancelled the air conditioning projects for their residences. The loss of sales will lead to reduced revenues and hopefully we will be able to sustain expenditures, stay in business and keep our employees in this time of uncertainty. Everyone is affected by the pandemic and we pray that this will end soon. We will continue to work and hope for the best for our business and for our family."

Mahalo and Maraming Salamat Po to all

those who shared. *The Fil-Am Voice* is very grateful to you and we are concerned about Maui's future.


As we stay home, let's look out for one another to make sure the *Aloha* spirit and the *Bayanihan* spirit are not forgotten. ✨

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 - Wailea Village as a Realtor and was 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. Since working at home due to the coronavirus, she has been baking a lot more.

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. He misses the gatherings of family and friends to share food and beverage ... and taking food photos to post on Instagram and Facebook. He is still optimistic the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the USC Trojans, and the Las Vegas Raiders will win championships this year.



COVID-19


HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds with this protective routine.
- Disinfect mobile devices and keyboards regularly. They're like a third hand!
- Carry alcohol-based hand sanitizer for situations when soap and water are unavailable.
- Shaka instead of handshake.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces.
- Cover cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw away. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into a bent elbow.
- Reserve face masks for at-risk individuals and health-care professionals. You should only wear a mask if you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or caring for someone sick who is unable to wear one. As masks may be in short supply, please do not purchase them so inventory is available for caregivers.
- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, faucets and lightswitches, with disinfectants.
- Vaccinate against the flu.
- Maintain a distance of 6+ ft, or two-arms' length, from others to prevent germs from spreading.
- Avoid sharing drinks, food utensils and e-cigarettes with others.
- Use a tissue or elbow to touch doorknobs, handrails, elevator buttons and crosswalk buttons.


ALOHA

Please use good judgement, follow recommended guidelines, and take care of each other.


SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19




Fever



Cough



Severe Illness




Difficulty Breathing

PERSONAL HEALTHY HABITS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

"A way to remember this is to hum the chorus of your favorite song while washing your hands, like 'We will, we will rock you, rock you' four times."



- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Always cover your cough with a tissue or disposable napkin.
- COVID-19 spreads through droplets, so if you catch your cough in your hand, wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- Frequently clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning sprays or wipes. Door handles, light switches, phones, keyboards, and handles found in restrooms should be cleaned regularly.
- Face masks will not protect you. They will however protect others from you if you are sick.

For more information or questions about COVID-19

call 2-1-1 from any location in the state

text 877-275-6569 email info211@auw.org

or visit health.hawaii.gov/covid19 or coronavirus.gov or hawaiiicovid19.com

Working for the Heart of Maui

Paid for by Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran
P.O. Box 857 Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

ROOTED. CAPABLE. EFFECTIVE.

gil KEITH-AGARAN
SENATE

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