

Balloting, Elections & COVID-19
 A new way of voting for many voters traditionally used to standing in lines.
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Same Christmas, Different Celebrating
 Caution needed during our new normal.
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Her Loss is Felt by Many
 Gloria Evangelista Cajigal, a true giver of her church community.
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Fil·Am Voice


Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

November 2020 • Vol 4 No11 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside


 Your attitude toward “The Beatitudes” matters.
p8


 Are SAT scores necessary for today's college applicants, asks Viloria.
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 Gift-giving tips for unprecedented times.
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Voters could vote by mail or stand in line.
 PHOTOS: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Incumbents Win; Challengers Fail to Convince Enough Voters

In person voting on November 3 delays results.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

The General Election on November 3 was a mixed bag but one thing was clear—all incumbents on Maui won as the challengers failed to convince the voters.

The November 3 election was the second time Maui and the rest of the state voted pri-

marily by mail. For the general election, 107,930 were on the Voter Rolls, with 71,634 actually voting—or 66.5%. Of those who voted, 92% or 66,077 voted by mail.

By comparison, in the 2016 General Election, 93,912 were on the Voter Rolls with 52,972 actually voting—or

56.4%. Of those who voted in 2016, 26,496 voted in person while 26,476 voted by mail.

During the 2020 Primary Election, 102,835 were on the Voter Rolls, with 43,954 actually voting or 42.7%. Of those who voted, 43,247 voted by mail with 697 voting in person.

For the 2020 General Election, there were 5,095 more on the Voter Rolls. More in person voting also occurred as 4,567 cast their ballots at the one Voter Service Center on each of the County’s three populated islands: Velma McWayne Santos Community

see ELECTION next page

The Pandemic Dampens the Holiday Season

COVID doesn’t take a holiday.

Vanessa Joy Domingo



April and RJ Domingo with baby Stella plan to make Christmas extra special this year, within the proper COVID-19 protocols.
 PHOTO COURTESY APRIL DOMINGO

Last year, who would have thought the 2020 Holiday season would need to be celebrated differently? For the past eight months, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down. Six feet apart, no hugs or kisses, wash your hands and sanitize them, wear your mask, virtual school, virtual business meetings, no fairs, festivals or large scale celebrations, no work for those in the hospitality industry, no revenues

for business owners who service tourists. Sadly, that’s been the norm for the last eight months and who knows how long it will last.

Residents of Maui were affected by clusters at Maui Memorial Hospital, Roselani Place, and Hale Makua—facilities caring for the elderly and the ill. Many thought social spread was restricted to O’ahu and the mainland. Many started to let their guard down and sadly, Lā-

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FREE

Election ...

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Center in Wailuku, Lānaʻi Community Center, and Mitchell Pauʻole Center in Kaunakakai. On the final day for voting, long lines marked the only polling place on Maui—Velma McWayne Santos Community Center. At noon, voters lined up on the sidewalk along Pāpōhaku Park and at 3 p.m., the lines remained equally long. Most of the in person ballots were cast for Republican candidates or in the absence of GOP, for the Aloha ʻĀina.

Long lines for in person voting on Oʻahu in Honolulu and Kapolei led to a delay of the first printout until about 11:30 p.m. Normally, the State Office of Elections releases the first printout a half hour after the polls close at 7 p.m. However, polls cannot close until anyone standing in line by 7 p.m. has completed voting. The Hawaiʻi law allowing same day registration for new voters added to the processing time for many new in person voters.

Nationally, there was no consensus on who won the presidency until Saturday morning on November 7—four days after the polls closed as media networks considered the states of Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania too close to call. Initially, President Donald J. Trump led many of the so-called battleground states with a strong showing among ballots cast on Election Day. But as early in person votes and mail-in ballots were counted in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and ballots were counted in Democratic leaning precincts in Ari-

zona, Georgia, and Nevada, former Vice President Joe Biden started to lead. As the week progressed, Biden was projected to win Michigan and Wisconsin by most media outlets, and Arizona by Fox and the Associated Press, moving him within one or two states of the 270 electoral votes needed. On Saturday, November 7th, most media outlets including the Associated Press, CNN and FOX added Pennsylvania and Nevada to Biden's total and recognized him as President-Elect. As of press time, Trump had not yet conceded but instead promised additional legal actions (by Sunday, ten separate legal challenges were already rejected by the courts). The Electoral College will meet on December 14 to formally vote for the next President and Vice-President.

Central Maui State Senator Gil Keith-Agaran said, "I'm very happy we will have President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris to call on for help and guidance on dealing with this pandemic and getting Hawaiʻi's people and businesses through the economic doldrums we are expecting. As Joe has been saying, he'll be a President of all Americans and not just people who supported him. That change in tone alone is a great change." In 2008, Keith-Agaran

was a Hawaiʻi Alternate Delegate while his wife Kallie Keith-Agaran was a Delegate for Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. The Hawaiʻi delegation shared their hotel with the delegation from then-Vice-President nominee Joe Biden's home state delegation of Delaware.

Senator Harris also makes history as the first woman and the first Asian

and Black to serve as Vice President. "We are not perfect in the United States but over time there is a persistent pull towards a more inclusive society in which opportunity is truly equal," observed Kahului (District 9) Rep. Justin Woodson. "We all felt that intransigent pull today as we elected our first woman, a woman of African and Asian descent to the second highest office of the land. God bless America."

South Maui (District 11) Rep. Tina Wildberger noted, "I am so proud to witness America's first woman, woman of color, woman of Asian descent, ascend and break the glass ceiling to the executive branch of our national government. Little girls everywhere see this image now and know they too can achieve any goal they hold in their hearts. Joe Biden gets credit for making this beautiful moment a reality.

On January 20th our country can re-join the Paris Climate Accord, rejoin the World Health Organization, restore Deferred Action for Child Arrivals status and end the long list of cruelties and crimes perpetrated by the biggest mistake that has been the 45th presidency."

Locally, no legal actions were threatened; nor were any mandatory recounts required.

In the County of Maui, 47,301 or 68% voted for the Biden/Harris team while 22,111 or 30.9% voted for the Trump/Pence slate. Less than 3% voted for the other four candidacies while there were 555 or 0.8% blank votes and 54 or 0.1% over votes. (Both the Republicans and the Democrats improved their showings from 2016, when 33,480 or 63.2% voted for the Democratic team of Clinton/Kane while 13,446 or 25.4% voted for the Trump/Pence slate. There were no significant third party candidates on the ballot this year.)

Also in the County of Maui, Democrat Kai Kahele received 42,135 votes (58.8%) to Republican Joe Akana's 19,113 or 26.7% in his quest to become the U.S. Representative for the Second District (replacing Tulsi Gabbard who after winning a single delegate in her failed pursuit of the presidency decided not to run for re-election.) Kahele, a Hawaiʻi Island state senator will need to resign before being sworn into Congress in January. The Governor will have the opportunity to appoint a replacement from a list determined by the Hawaiʻi Island Democratic Party.

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I'm very happy we will have President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris to call on for help and guidance on dealing with this pandemic

—SEN. GIL KEITH-AGARAN



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Science for a better life

Holidays ...

from p. 1

na'i's residents became affected through social gathering.

“As the Holiday Celebration season is upon us, we must still remember that we are in a pandemic with rising COVID cases in our country,” said Dr. Errol Buntuyan, who is Board Certified in Family Medicine and has been practicing for twenty years, with the last thirteen years at Kaiser Permanente’s Maui Lani Clinic. “The most recent Lāna‘i outbreaks have affected the Filipino community with gatherings surrounding a funeral event. Our prayers for a quick recovery go out to them.” Buntuyan, who is also president of the Philippine Association of Maui Doctors, cautioned “On Maui, we need to do everything we can to ensure that we do not have the same outbreak here in our own community. We can protect each other from COVID exposure by following certain guidelines when we are planning to host or attend a Holiday gathering.” [See box on p.14]



Dr. Nicole Apoliona

“As tempting as the holidays may be to gather with your family and friends, it is not the time to let your guard down,” said Dr. Nicole Apoliona, who is Board Certified in Family Medicine and medical director of Kula Hospital for the past eleven years. “Gatherings outside of your household members have proven to be a high-risk activity. We have seen evidence of this in social situations, such as parties and funerals where COVID has spread to multiple people. Heading into the holidays we need to adjust how we celebrate. Try to keep just to your immediate household or do a virtual party on ZOOM. If you want to host a larger gathering, do it all outdoors, maintain physical distancing of at least six feet within your own household, especially when eating, wear masks, sanitize your hands, and don’t have a buffet but try to use bentos or pre-set plate lunches. And don’t forget that only one gloved person should be reaching into the cooler for drinks.”



How can we continue to serve Lechon at family gatherings during this pandemic?

PHOTO: VANESSA DOMINGO

April Oandasan Domingo will miss holding family close during the holidays. “Being Filipina and one that lives in Hawai‘i, I’m a very intimate person. Whenever I see friends or family, it’s natural for me to give a big hug or a kiss on the cheek even more so during the holidays because I love spreading Christmas love and cheer. Because of COVID, I can no longer do that without fear of contracting the virus and possibly exposing it to kids and the rest of my family.”

Domingo clearly understands things need to be different this year. “The entire world will be experiencing a very different holiday season this year,” she says. “2020 has been a roller coaster ride of cataclysmic events. I am thankful that the COVID virus has not affected any of my family members or friends and that they are still here on this earth, safe and sound. But the virus has affected the way we will celebrate this season. My family will still gather for the holidays but it will just be our immediate families. We won’t have the luxury to invite our extended families or our friends. It will be a much quieter holiday season this time. We won’t be able to hug, kiss or sit very close but we will still have each other’s company from across the table or through facetime. I am extremely thankful that although we can’t all technically be together we still have advanced technology to bring us close.”

“Holiday celebrations can continue but be mindful that we are still under a public health emergency,” said Jeny Bissell, a public health nurse with the State of Hawaii Department of Health. “Influenza, common cold, and many

other respiratory illnesses are also upon us on top of COVID. We must continue to be vigilant and avoid ‘super-spreader’ events. A gathering of five or less is okay, stay in your bubble (eating, sleeping under the same roof) and wear a mask (covering your nose and mouth) if you are not actively eating and



Jeny Bissell, RN

drinking.”

Bissell shared a bulletin from the State Department of Health which included a response to the question “What are you doing differently for the holidays this year” from Janelle: “Our family, like many others, looks forward to the large multi-family holiday gatherings each year. We especially look forward to traditional specialties from each family. On Thanksgiving, there’s aunty’s mac salad, cuz’s homemade *poke*, brother-in-law’s *lup cheong mochi* stuffing, pumpkin crunch, etc. There’s usually seven different desserts alone. It’s crazy but normal for many families! Since we cannot get together this year, I thought we’d organize a Drive-by Thanksgiving. We could designate a drop off house where one person from each family will bring their specialty dish and pick up the other dishes from the other families and take their haul home to feed their household. Takes a little coordination but then everyone can still feel connected to each other and still be safer apart. Those potluck apps work well.”

Being creative during this holiday season is a must. “It’s unfortunate that we can’t celebrate together like past years but it’s opened up the doors of new traditions,” said Domingo who knows that because of COVID, celebrating will involve a smaller celebration with just her, her husband RJ and children—Stella, Leo, and Teddy. “Because of how sad this year has been I’m going to make it extra special for

see HOLIDAYS p.9



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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
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Turning the Page, Beginning Anew ...

W hew! What a dramatic ending to the 2020 presidential election! The Biden and Harris team are projected as president and vice president elect. This is a very historic moment for our nation—with Harris as the first woman and a person of color to be elected as a vice president. The election is finally over—and now we can breathe a sigh of relief! Perhaps the most significant reason for our new optimism comes from a new national leader who campaigned for unity, compassion and dignity. We are encouraged more than ever to know we can again live with a new normal—in peace, not division; in hope, not fear; in love, not hate. We need leaders who will unite and heal our nation. Now we can look forward to the days ahead with hope for healing the pain, apprehensions and worries of the last four years.

At the local level, we hope the incoming council members will help to address the many challenges facing our residents—lack of affordable housing; homelessness; unemployment and underemployment; domestic violence and abuse; alcohol and drug abuse; mental illness—just to name a few of our most urgent needs.

According to the latest forecasts from the State Council of Revenues, it is estimated the State will have a budget deficit of more than two billion dollars. State and County policy makers face a dauntingly enormous budget shortfall this coming year. The question is, which programs will



"What a blessing to live free and thanking God that He is Sovereign."

PHOTO: VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

be on the chopping block and which programs will be spared?

During the pandemic, there are some bright spots revealed in many ways showing who we are as a community—giving help and encouragement to one another; loving and praying for each other. We witness how many offer help when they see someone in need during these very challenging times. Personally, I have seen the kindness of the human heart and what a blessing it is to live in a community where people truly care for each other.

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, we have much to be grateful for: friends, family, caring neighbors, cordial service personnel in cafés, restaurants, markets, shops, churches and post offices and even strangers who give you a sweet smile and a friendly *shaka* sign.

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Keith-Agaran and family signwaving during his campaign to be re-elected as State Senator.

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Election ...

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Incumbent State legislators easily win re-election

State Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, representing Senate District 5 (Central Maui)—the first and only state senator of Filipino ancestry from the island of Maui—easily won his re-election. Keith-Agaran received 13,888 votes or 60.1% to Christy Kajiwarra-Gusman, a former Democrat who ran as a Republican who received only 6,679 votes or 28.9%. The third candidate, Rynette "Ipo" Keen from the newly-formed Aloha 'Āina party received only 1,028 or 4.5% of the vote. (Interestingly, during the last weeks of the election, there were reports the Aloha 'Āina party was organized as an LLC instead of the usual political party status.) Keith-Agaran beat Kajiwarra-Gusman in every precinct.

"I'm grateful to continue serving Central Maui—we face difficult times but I remain optimistic and confident that working together, we can make opportunities out of the serious challenges we face economically," said Keith-Agaran. "Many thanks to my wife Kallie Keith-Agaran, my mom Lydia Coloma, my sister Vel, extended family and friends for their help and support in an unusual year for campaigning." In the Senate, Keith-Agaran will remain as the Vice Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee and will continue to lead Senate negotiations on capital

improvement projects and CIP grant-in-aids. He will also serve as Vice Chair of the Water & Land Committee and will sit on the Higher Education committee.

State Representative Justin Woodson,



Justin Woodson

Kahala Chrulpalyk received only 1,383 votes or 14.6%. Woodson prevailed in all precincts and unlike other Democrats also won the in person tallies. In the House, Woodson will chair the Education committee.

"I would like to give my deepest gratitude to the Filipino community for your continued support," said Woodson. "I appreciate that you allow me to be a part of you and you will always be a part of me."

State Representative Angus McKelvey, representing House District 10 (West Maui) also easily won his re-election, garnering 5,837 votes or 56.2% over his Republican opponent Kanamu Balinbin (3,162 or 30.5%) and his Aloha 'Āina opponent Travis Gylstrand (606 or 5.8%). McKelvey won in every precinct. In the House, McKelvey will chair the Government Reform committee.

In her first re-election, Representative Tina Wildberger, representing House District 11 (South Maui) also easily won with 7,650 votes (64%) over her Aloha 'Āina opponent Howard Greenberg who received

see ELECTION p.6



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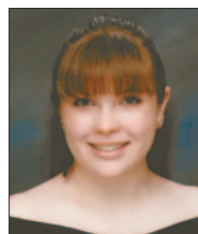
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Election ...

from p. 4

2,668 votes or 22.3%. Wildberger won all the precincts but Greenberg collected most of the in person votes.

“I appreciate all of the South Maui voters who demonstrated their confidence in my commitment to serve them,” Wildberger said. “It’s time to get to work to undo all the harm done and to make up time lost to address sea level rise and the climate crisis.”

State Representative Lynn DeCoite, representing District 13 (Molokai) also easily won her re-election with 7,717 or 64% compared to her Aloha ‘Āina opponent Theresa Kapaku (1,999 votes or 16.6%) and her Republican opponent Robin Vanderpool (1,583 votes or 13.1%). DeCoite won all precincts and most of the in person ballots cast.

Incumbents vs. Challengers; Hui O Maui Citizens for Change vs. Maui ‘Ohana

During the general election for County Council races, competing slates contested all nine seats. The Hui O Maui Citizens for Change backed four incumbents (Tasha Kama, Alice Lee, Michael Molina, and Yuki Lei Sugimura), four challengers (Claire Kamalu Carroll, Tom Cook, Stacey

Crivello and Rick Nava) and Alberta De Jetley for the open Lāna‘i seat. The Maui ‘Ohana backed four incumbents (Kelly King, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Tamara Paltin and Shane Sinenci), two challengers (Aja Eyre and Carol Lee Kamekona) and Gabe Johnson for the vacant Lāna‘i seat. In the end, all eight incumbents won (due to term limits, for the second time in his legislative career, Lāna‘i Councilmember Riki Hokama was prevented from running for re-election).

Incumbent Yuki Lei Sugimura (Up-country) ran unopposed and received the highest number of votes —48,258 or 67.4% but with 23,352 or 32.6% blank votes. Sugimura did her best in precincts 12-05 (3073) [Kula, Waiohuli, ‘Ulupalakua], 08-05 (3057) [Koa, Kehalani, Wailuku Heights], 13-02 (3045) [Ha‘ikū], 09-01 (2423) [The Legends, 12th increment, Pōmaika‘i], 10-05 (2400) [Maka] and 09-02 (2184) [Old Sandhills, The Islands, Palama Drive, The Greens].

“I appreciate the vote of confidence to return to the table to represent the people of Maui County,” said Sugimura. “We need to bring back our economy for the many families who lost their jobs. We need to feed our children, keep them sheltered and happy! I hope the Governor will extend the eviction moratorium which ends on December 31st. Our economy is not

ready to lift the veil.”

Incumbent Council Chair Alice Lee (Wailuku) also faced no opposition and tallied the second highest votes—48,010 or 67.0% but with 23,600 or 33.0% blank votes. Like Sugimura, Lee did best in precincts 08-05 (3110), 13-02 (2999), 12-05 (2787), 10-05 (2441), 09-01 (2393), 9-02 (2174) and added 08-02 (2027) [Waiehu].

“I would like to commend all candidates, their families, supporters and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in the past election,” said Lee. “Maui County is fortunate to have such high-quality people seek public office. As we prepare for the new Council term in January 2021, please be assured that the eight returning members, along with one newly elected member will work together in a highly cooperative and collaborative spirit to get the people’s business accomplished.” Lee also expressed her thanks to the Filipino community for their efforts during the pandemic. “We would especially like to acknowledge Binhi at Ani and the other Filipino organizations who continue to provide food and supplies to our residents and the *Fil-Am Voice* for keeping us up to date with important community information.”

Incumbent Mike Molina (Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia) collected the top vote among the incumbents facing challengers—41,219 or 67.4%. ‘Ohana candidate Aja Eyre received only 18,455 votes or 25.8%. Molina did his best in precincts 13-02 (2731), 12-05 (2528), 08-05 (2403), 09-01 (2136), and 10-05 (2006) [Kā‘anapali, Nāpili, Pu‘ukoli‘i].

South Maui Councilwoman Kelly King received 34,147 votes or 41.9%. She beat local contractor Tom Cook who was endorsed by the Hui. Cook finished with 25,496 votes or 35.6%. The blank votes in the race (11,915 and 14 double votes) exceeded the 8,651 difference between King and Cook. King performed best in precincts 13-02 (2965) and 12-05 (2051). Cook managed to beat King in four precincts but by slim margins: 08-02 (1119-1086), 08-05 (1766-1737), 08-06 (701-685) [Waikapu] and 12-06 (101-85).

West Maui Councilwoman Tamara Paltin won her rematch with Rick Nava, outpacing her opponent with 33,686 votes or 47.0%. The Hui-backed Nava received 26,583 votes or 37.1%. The difference between the two were 7,103 votes while the blank votes were 11,323 (and 18 double votes). In the precincts encompassing the West Side, 10-02 through 10-05, Paltin beat Nava 4,559-3,822, with 826 blank votes and 3 double votes. Nava bested Paltin in all four Kahului precincts (09-01 through 09-04): 4,541 to 3,703 and three other precincts 08-02 (1193-1049) [Waiehu], 10-03 (898-767) [Lahainaluna] and 13-06 (588-548) [Kaunakakai] while Paltin carried the other 27 precincts. Paltin’s best precincts were 13-02 (3160-1244) and 12-05 (2218-1410). The precincts with the highest number of blank votes were 13-02 (988), 11-02 (787) [Maui Meadows, Mākena (Keonekai to Okolani)], 12-05 (732), 11-03 (676), 08-05 (655) and 11-04 (655). By comparison, in the 2018 general election Paltin received 28,376 votes or 46.7% while Nava received 14,581 votes or 28.8% with 7,665 blank votes and 6 double votes.

East Maui incumbent Shane Sinenci received 32,988 votes or 46.1%, beating Claire Kamalu Carroll in another rematch. Carroll, endorsed by the Hui, received 26,234 votes or 36.6%. The difference between the two were 6,754 votes with 12,362 blank votes (and 26 double votes). Sinenci’s best precincts were 13-02 (3157) and 12-05 (2141). Carroll prevailed in all four Kahului precincts 4306 to 3870, two Wailuku precincts: 08-05 (1819-1681), 08-06 (704-673), and four East Maui precincts: 13-04 (555-320) and 13-05 (199-158), 13-06 (731-398), 13-07 (123-70), 13-08 (415-316). Sinenci beat Carroll in the East Maui precinct 13-03 comprising Hāna-



Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

Ke‘anae-Kaupō: 742-259. By comparison, in the 2018 general election Sinenci received a total 23,654 votes or 46.7% while Carroll received 19,467 votes or 38.5%.

In their third rematch, Molokai Councilwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez again beat

see ELECTION p.8

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From the
Editor’s Desk

Cont’d from p. 4

During the pandemic challenges, we also witnessed the human spirit alive and well here on Maui as we are warmed by neighbors helping neighbors, friends helping friends and families helping families. Most of all, we have seen the hand of God working in our midst and we are blessed to be guided and comforted by these promises:

- God is always with us.
- God is always in control.

- God is always good.
- God is always watching over us.
- God is always victorious.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and may you all be blessed by His love! 🌸

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Gloria Evangelista Cajigal,
May 3, 1954–November 2, 2020.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Gloria was a constant chaperone for Good Shepherd's youth at various events including on O'ahu.
PHOTO COURTESY GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH



For many tens of years, Glora supervised Good Shepherd's youth at Lock-In and other events.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

On All Saints Day weekend, Gloria Evangelista Cajigal passed at the age of 66. The Baldwin High School Class of 1972 graduate left behind her husband of many years Ferdinand Cajigal and children Jeremy, Karissa and Lareina, and grandchildren Rylan, Piercen, Chevy and Levi. She also left a mother, a brother, a sister, nephews and nieces from the Evangelista family and members of her husband's clan—the Magbuals.

Gloria had a knack for pulling you into a task. When she invited some of my nieces to a church retreat weekend on O'ahu, she “invited” me to go along as a chaperone. She was always inviting people who came into the life of the parish to get involved. It was one of her many spiritual gifts.

At a Compline service, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church's young adults and others from Maui, O'ahu and the mainland—Father Moki Hino†, Ervin Pasalo, Zyra Dela Cruz, Father Ernesto Pasalo, Jr.†, Leigh Corpuz, Rheena Acidera Campbell, Sheena Garo, Tiani Santiago Luning, Danny Acidera, Mary Grace Basig, Christian Evangelista,

Brandon Cacayorin and Father Marvin Foltz†—shared some thoughts on Gloria's impact. As in many parishes, folks

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

*Gloria Evangelista Cajigal:
A Second Mom to Good Shepherd's
Youth & Young Adults.*

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

can identify key people breathing life into the faith community. For Wailuku's Good Shepherd (and the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i), Gloria was one of those faithful Saints.

For many years, Gloria spearheaded the youth and young adult ministries at the Church and volunteered at many of the other activities at the church—Barrio Fiesta (almost another Sacrament at the Parish), Ka 'Ohana

Kitchen, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Adopt-A-Highway, Study Halls, Relay for Life, Acolyte Ministry, Fellowship Hour, Halloween, First Friday, Bell Choir, Maui Foodbank Fundraisers, Palm Sunday palm weaving, Christmas Caroling and Easter Vigil and Christmas Pageants. If the parish had an event, you would usually find her there.

During the Compline service, they testified to her role in making the light of Christ real in their lives. Whether it was coaxing and prodding attendance at New Beginnings or Happenings in a loving fashion, they recall her gentle persistence in inviting them. “She was a gracious and good person in every sense of the word.” “She gave us opportunities to move out of our comfort zone.” “She identified leadership traits in me that I didn't know myself.”

Gloria influenced them to step up as leaders in the church and in many

ways, to help them discern their gifts and to open up their dreams and aspirations.

They also shared some poignantly funny memories.

Working tirelessly, the youth noticed over the years Gloria had the uncanny ability to steal “power naps” anywhere and anytime—including tables at hotel laundry rooms waiting for clothes to dry. Dedicated to getting things done, they testified sleep often seemed “the furthest thing from her mind.” But when she was with the youth, she was present.

She would read Robert Munsch's “Love You Forever” as a “bedtime story” and eventually would tear as she got through the story. By the end of the story, many of the youth would be crying with her. One person shared he now reads the same story to his own child. “I'll love you forever. I'll like you for always. As long as I'm living, my baby you'll be.”

Ultimately for many of them, Gloria was not just “Mom” from New Beginnings weekend, she was the Second Mother in their childhood. She was

see GLORIA p.9



Gloria together with her husband Ferdinand headed Good Shepherd's Barrio Fiesta participation.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA





Gloria anchored Good Shepherd's Bell Choir, playing C.
PHOTO COURTESY GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 26, 2020

from the
 **Fil-Am Voice**

Letting the Beatitudes Become Your Attitude

John A.H. Tomosot

The Beatitudes, as recorded in Chapter Five, verses 1–12 of Matthew's Gospel, are best understood as descriptive and not prescriptive or telling us what to do but rather telling us about what can be done and why and how. In the midst of human frustration, chaos, even death and defeat, the description of these Beatitudes is played out in all of history, even in our time, until the end of time. I believe the Almighty God is crafting a miracle of genuine, life-giving purity and righteousness from the imperfection of our human existence and experience. All of the Gospels describe this miracle through the story of Jesus' earthly ministry.

The Beatitudes can be seen as not descriptions but also observations of how one's imperfect life can be brought to perfection. You see, Almighty God is at work in us, in our ordinary and imperfect lives, inculcating and imbuing us with attitudes that consistently point us to a sense of moral responsibility. So, these *BE-attitudes* are really *AT-titudes* which remind us to think of others and not only ourselves. Given we are in an election year, I would venture to guess these attitudes remind us an election is really about us—all of us—and that how we treat each other and respect each other, is the stuff of government and governing; of how things are done through our doing and acting and not just our talking.

These Beatitudes should move us to think of the resources we have to nurture a sense of the common good that, together with our sense of moral responsibility, one to another, no matter our particular belief or choice. In my formation to become a Priest, Anglican theological thinking and writing convinced me these Beatitudes (Attitudes) are "sufficiently clear and straightforward ... with balance, restraint, moderation, and measure." They are, I believe, not only about the reality of Almighty God in our midst but also about the depth of our love given to us and that share.

Now, we should share love but it is a somewhat hard, a great ordeal of life. Yet, we are imperfect and so is life. But we journey through life to Almighty God's perfection and we can, nonetheless, still enjoy life, ah, with the right attitude! So, these Beatitudes can be seen as testing realities that allow us to get to the common good and see others more perfectly aligned with who we are, who we are for each other, as we journey to perfection. The older I become, the more deeply do I understand these Beatitudes as part of the journey without which wrong turns on the journey, will lead me down the wrong road.

So, these Beatitudes (attitudes) lead, I believe, to Almighty God's



Jesus preached about the Beatitudes in his sermon on the mount.

IMAGE: CARL BLOCH (1877) COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

promise, as Matthew's Gospel cites. These are promises about God being in control, truly mighty; about being comforted and a peace; about Almighty God bringing about a new reign (God's ultimate control of everything), about an earth that is a true gift for our use and not our misuse; about righteousness or *pono* being the foundation of both moral responsibility and the common good; about mercy and how we treat each other with respect and compassion; about a final reward as we reach the perfection we've journeyed to throughout life. I believe in these promises; Almighty God does not lie. But it is up to us to make these promises; these good things real.

Almighty God is revealed through our imperfect human nature. These Beatitudes, which become our attitudes, are how we are and become Blessed. But we can only realize this if we are "poor in spirit, meek and pure of heart." Ah, if only our imperfections wouldn't get in the way and we would trust Almighty God for everything and trusting others too!

I have a suggestion. Let's say these Beatitudes spring from a deep, loving relationship with God. If you don't believe in God, let's say they spring from a deep, loving relationship with everyone, especially those you love. Nonetheless, be a blessing. Mourn when you need. Be meek, confident you are a child of God or someone's child. Hunger and thirst for justice. Be merciful. Be pure in heart, taking care to be honest with yourself and others. Be a peacemaker. Be courageous and willing to follow God or follow a good person you know and respect. Do these things as you are able and these Beatitudes will become your Attitudes.

One more thing, I hope you voted!



John A. Hau'oli Tomosot is a Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i and a retired Social Worker, with 42 years of licensed practice. Born and raised on Maui, he lives in Kahului with his wife Susan

D. Tomoso, who is a retired Educator with 30 years of teaching experience.



Former Maui County Mayors Alan Arakawa, Charmaine Tavares, James "Kimo" Apana and Gov. Linda Lingle backed the Hui O Maui's NO-vote on the subject of the Charter Amendment to appoint a County Manager.

Election ...

from p. 6

former Councilwoman Stacy Helm Crivello. Rawlings-Fernandez received 31,706 votes or 44.3% while the Hui endorsed Crivello collected 26,331 votes or 36.8%. The difference between the two were 5,375 votes with 13,555 blank votes (and 18 double votes). Rawlins-Fernandez' best precincts were 13-02 (2964) and 12-05 (2118). Crivello beat Rawlins-Fernandez in all the Kahului precincts: 4307-3721, in most of the Wailuku precincts 5463-5275 and on Molokai: 1662-1343. By comparison, in the 2018 general election Rawlins-Fernandez received a total of 22,134 votes or 43.7% while Crivello received 20,643 votes or 40.8%. Rawlins-Fernandez remains the only Councilmember of Filipino/part-Filipino ancestry.

In the closest election on Maui, Kahului Councilwoman Tasha Kama, endorsed by the Hui (but in 2018 endorsed by the 'Ohana), received 30,022 votes or 41.9%, beating back Carol Lee Kamekona who received 27,630 or 38.6%. The difference between the two were 2,392 votes with 13,934 blank votes (and 24 double votes). Kama topped the 2000 votes mark in only one precinct: 08-05 (2116) and convincingly protected her home base of Kahului: 5247-3119. Kamekona edged Kama in 14 of 34 precincts including West Maui (10-01 to 10-05): 4030-3749 and South Maui (11-01 to 11-04): 4902-4111 as well as precincts 12-01 (1122-1087), 12-02 (737-647), 12-05 (1807-1751), 13-01 (552-493), 13-02 (2781-1487), 13-03 (512-332), and 13-05 (171-167).

For the Lāna'i seat, the third time proved the charm for 'Ohana backed Gabe Johnson who beat Hui endorsed Alberta De Jetley—32,095 to 24,479, with Johnson receiving 44.8% and De Jetley receiving 34.2%. The difference between the two were 7,616 votes with 15,024 blank votes (and 12 double votes). Like Kama, Johnson topped the 2000 vote mark in only

one precinct: 13-02 (2962). De Jetley beat Johnson in nine precincts including Lāna'i City: 13-04 (618-531), Molokai: 1318-1030 as well as 08-05: 1692-1611), 08-06 (673-658), 09-02 (1160-1151), and 12-06 (93-85).

The precincts with the highest Voter Rolls were 13-02 (8,073) [Ha'ikū], 10-05 (6,750) [Kā'anapali-Nāpili-Pu'ukoli'i], 12-05 (5,862) [Kula, Waiohuli, 'Ulupalakua], 08-05 (5,406) [Koa, Kehalani, Wailuku Heights], and 11-02 (5,057) [Maui Meadows, Mākena (Keonekai to Okolani)].

The precincts with the highest mail turnout were 13-02 (5,067), 12-05 (4,161), 10-05 (4,054) and 08-05 (3,900).

The precinct with the highest percentage of mail turnout was 08-05 with 72.1% (3,900 of 5,406). The precinct with the second highest percentage of mail turnout was 12-05 with 71.0% (4,101 of 5,862).

The precinct with the lowest percentage of mail turnout was 10-03 [Lahainaluna] with 54.7% (1,655 of 3,025).

Charter Amendments

In addition to races for national, state and local offices, Maui voters were asked to approve or disapprove seven amendments to the County Charter proposed by the County Council.

Similar to the Council races, there were two groups advocating for a certain vote on the proposed Charter amendments. The Holomua 'Ohana for Professional Management advocated a YES on all proposed Charter amendments while the Vote No on Charter Amendments Hui O Maui Nui We Can't Afford It advocated a NO on all proposed Charter amendments.

The most hotly contested Charter Amendment involved professionalizing the County Managing Director. Maui's living former Mayors (Linda Lingle, Kimo Apana, Charmaine Tavares and Alan Arakawa) supported the Hui O Maui opposition. The Hui O Maui, in a variety of ads argued residents should pick their Mayor or for accountability rather than ceding authority to someone selected by a committee. Current Mayor Michael Victorino also opposed the Charter Amendment. While supporters claimed no Mayor would lose any power, suggesting the Mayor would still appoint the Managing Director, in the end, the voters agreed with the

see ELECTION p.10



Family gatherings with April and RJ Domingo used to include all of the clan who could attend.
PHOTO COURTESY APRIL DOMINGO

Holidays ...

from p. 3

my kids by decorating our cottage more than I have in the past. I want it to look like Santa lives in our cottage with us. I'll make sure to schedule extra Christmas crafts, Christmas baking, watch all the Christmas movies and shows I've watched as a kid and much, much more. I want my kids to know that just because the world is a little different doesn't mean life stops. We simply need to adjust and celebrate life in different ways."

Dr. Apoliona notes the Filipino community in Hawai'i is disproportionately affected by COVID with 22% of cases affecting Filipinos who consti-

tute 16% of the state's population. Now that hotels are reopening, she's afraid of the higher exposures from co-employees. "Returning to work and social gatherings are times of higher risk. When you return to work, you are spending time with many people outside your household. We have found in hospitals and nursing homes in Hawai'i and across the country that break rooms and car-pooling are situations where COVID is spread. The basic rules apply all the time: wear a mask, keep six feet apart and visit outdoors or make sure there is good ventilation (windows open). At Kula Hospital, we encourage everyone to take breaks and eat outside as much as possible. Break rooms are limited to

see HOLIDAYS p.14



Jan Paa family gathering.
PHOTO COURTESY JAN PAA 'OHANA

Gloria ...

from p. 7

naturally motherly, taking an interest in their lives. She got them first summer jobs. She prodded them to become leaders in the parish, the diocese, the province and nationally (and to show them how to plan and run events in the future). She expanded their outlooks and allowed them to connect with other younger Christians throughout the islands. And she allowed them to see Christ in her own life.

As Scottish poet Thomas Campbell once observed, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."
Rest in love, Gloria. ❄️



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran serves as the State Senator for the communities of Kahului, Wailuku, Waihe'e, Waikapū and Waiehu. During the 2020 Election season, he took a leave of absence as a regular columnist for the Fil-Am Voice. The people of Central Maui re-elected him on November 3, 2020.

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from p. 8

proposed Charter amendment was approved with 43,646 YES votes (60.9%), 23,507 NO votes (32.8%), 4,412 blank votes, and 45 double votes.

Two term limit clarifying Charter Amendments were also before the voters pertaining to the Council and the Mayor. Currently the term limit provisions specifically state consecutive terms. The Charter Amendments deleted the word consecutive but the present Councilmembers were grandfathered in, e.g., Riki Hokama after a two-year absence could run again and each incumbent Councilmember will not have their past tenures be counted as one of the five. Both Charter Amendments passed. The amendment relating to the Council passed with 48,955 YES votes (68.4%), 18,253 NO

votes (25.5%), 4,371 blank votes and 31 double votes while the amendment relating to the Mayor passed with 47,267 YES votes (66.0%), 19,970 NO votes (27.9%), 4,345 blank votes and 28 double votes.

The proposed Charter Amendment relating to the Affordable Housing Fund (increasing it from 2% to 3%) also passed with 37,570 YES votes (52.5%) and 29,076 NO votes (40.6%), with 4,915 blank votes and 49 double votes.

Another proposed Charter Amendment pertained to requiring judicial action within thirty days if there is a dispute as to interpretation of the Charter. This also passed with 39,577 YES votes (55.3%), 23,479 NO votes (40.1%), 7,982 blank votes and 25 double votes.

Finally, a proposed Charter Amendment to reduce the power of the Mayor to appoint members of the Charter Commission was also before the voters. Currently, the Mayor appoints all eleven members with the approval of the Council. The proposal sought to leave the Mayor with appointment power over only two members of the Charter Commission and allow each Councilmember to appoint one member. The proposed Charter Amendment passed with 34,861 YES votes (48.7%), 28,742 NO votes (40.1%), 7,982 blank votes and 25 double votes.

The Council will now need to pass any enabling legislation once the results are certified.

see ELECTION p.13



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It's my favorite month! Why is that? It's because it's my birth month. I am happy when November comes because I am going to be a year wiser and older. I am forever grateful for the gift of life. Four decades and more is not an easy one. There were and still are bumps on the road but it's what makes the ride exciting and fulfilling.

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

In the Philippines, November 1st is All Saint's Day and November 2nd is All Soul's Day. It is the day when we remember our loved ones who have passed away. A few days before the beginning of the month, people clean

the cemetery where their loved ones are laid to rest. Some folks hire others to clean and repair the memorials. This year, due to COVID-19, there was a new normal for visiting our loved ones to comply with rules about social distancing and mass gathering. The officials created a schedule per baranggay to accommodate those visiting their loved ones.

LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING ON with Angel this month and where they will be going next, shall we?

"That's right! I will make it here no matter how hard it gets," teary eyed, she says to herself in the mirror. "Michael, where are you? I want to tell you everything," Angel says to herself.

Ding...dong. The doorbell rings. "Michael?" she gasps. Angel wipes her eyes and runs down the stairs. She lunges for the *ridaw* (door) with the biggest *isem* (smile) on her *goya* (face) and opens the *puwerta* (door).

In front of her is an older lady holding a basket full of *utanon* (vegetables).

LADY: *Mapianga um-ma nikaw* (Good morning) my child. Is Lydia here?

ANGEL: *Magandang umaga* (Good morning). No, she's not home right now. Can I help you?

LADY: I just came here to give her some fresh *kautanan* (vegetables) from my backyard. There's plenty and I don't want it to waste. I also want to talk stories with her. It's been a long time since we gossip about our friends. Where did she go? It's very early in the morning and she's out already?

Angel comes out and closes the *pin-tuan* (door) behind her.

ANGEL: Lydia and Henry went to Honolulu this morning. I don't know why they went there but they will be

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Handsome	Pogi	Nataraki	Ambongan	Mabuot	Guapo	Masanting
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
Where?	Saan?	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
Happy	Masaya	Naragsak	Malipayon	Masadya	Magayaya	Matula
Vegetables	Gulay	Nateng	Utanon	Kautanan	Gulay	Gulay
Good morning	Magandang umaga	Naimbag nga aldaw	Maayong buntag	Maayong aga	Mapiang a um-ma nikaw	Mayap a yabak
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran
Parents	Magulang	Nagannak	Ginikanan	Ginikanan	Magana	Pengari

back tonight.

LADY: Oh, is that so? Since I am here, I will give these *gulay* (vegetables) to you.

The lady handed the basket of *nateng* (vegetables) to Angel. She thanked her and accepted the basket.

LADY: *Ana* (What) is your name? You are not Lydia's daughter, right? You don't have any resemblance to her. You are too *maganda* (beautiful) to be her daughter.

The lady laughed and it became contagious that Angel joined her. Both of them were laughing so hard. The laughter turned into an awkward pause and then silence.

ANGEL: My name is Angel. Lydia is not my mother. She's not my Auntie or my relative. I am not related to her but she was nice enough to let me live with her because I don't have a place to go to.

LADY: Ah, ok. Nice to meet you Angel. I am Lisa. Lydia is my friend.

ANGEL: Nice meeting you, Auntie Lisa. Let me put these *gulay* (vegetables) inside so I can give you your basket. Do you want to come inside?

Angel opened the *pasbul* (door) and walked towards the kitchen. Lisa followed her behind and closed the *ganhaan* (door).

LISA: *Hani* (What) is your last name

Angel? Who are your parents? *Nokarin* (Where) are they from? Maybe I know them. Or maybe we are related.

ANGEL: Oh, Auntie. You have so many questions. My last name is Corpuz. My *ginikanan* (parents) are from Bacarra and they are still there. I don't know if I have relatives here on Maui. I didn't ask my *magana* (parents) if we have relatives here. I just got here a few months ago. Maybe when I call and talk to them, I can ask. *Inno* (Where) are you from, Auntie?

Angel placed the basket on the table and started to take the *nateng* (vegetables) out from the basket and put it in a big bowl. In her mind, she thinks about her parents again. She misses them. She hasn't talked to them since she got to Hawai'i. She doesn't know how she will get in touch with them.

LISA: Hoy, Angel. Did you hear me? I was asking if you have a boyfriend or if you are married. I have a *nataraki* (handsome) nephew. He is *pogi* (handsome) and you are *malagu* (beautiful). I think you both will be a cute couple. I am so *naragsak* (happy). My *guapo* (handsome) nephew will be *masaya* (happy) that I found a *napintas* (beautiful) lady for him.

Lisa winked at her, giggled and got excited. She finally found a *gwapa*

see LET'S TALK PINOY p.13



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Is Not Everything...

The College Application Process In a Pandemic

Alexis Joy Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

As high school seniors all across the country are still settling into virtual learning, there is another force they must overcome: college applications. In this new normal, seniors must battle the pressures of their futures as they work towards their career goals. The college application process consisting of the summarization of years of academic work, standardized testing and hours upon hours of essay writing and proofreading, though seemingly independent of the effects of COVID-19's visit to the world, has been greatly affected by the pandemic.

From the beginning of quarantine, students across the nation and even the world have gone through a whirlpool of changes, good and bad. From exploring new hobbies to contemplating the state of their mental health, the pandemic has affected students so diversely in a way that has never been reflected in the history of college admissions. In response to this, institutions across the country have

opted to take these changes into account. One change, perhaps one of the most surprising especially for more selective elite colleges, was the decision to go test-optional, leaving students their own choice to submit their ACT or SAT scores.

Even left to their own devices to choose whether to submit their test scores, many students still feel the pressure to test to their highest potential to get into their schools of choice. Across the United States, including here on Maui, with proper safety precautions, students were able to test at certain SAT testing centers. Was this the right decision to make on behalf of the company behind the test?

Neck deep into their college applications, two high school seniors explore the implications of entering the world of college admissions during this pandemic.

A senior at Maui High School, **Chensen Cabalse** shares his take on pandemic college applications. When it comes to test scores, Chensen thinks



Chensen Cabalse

that colleges shouldn't be considering them at all. "At this point in time, I do wish colleges would completely disregard standardized test scores. Every person is unique and everyone has a different story to tell. A set of numbers should not define anyone or their success," says Chensen. In his opinion, he cites the financial hardships brought on by the pandemic and the test fees that come with taking standardized tests, saying "I think having testing available this school year was not a good idea. Parents of many students lost their jobs and testing fees presented financial barriers for students and their parents."

On the mainland, many students have found themselves having to drive interstate to get to a testing center. Chensen says this is yet another reason why testing shouldn't have been administered at this point. "There is also no point in having testing centers open across the nation," said Chensen, "if every student is not guaranteed the same testing opportunities."

Though now not as keen on testing during the pandemic, Chensen has found himself in a position where he wanted to take one to better improve his chances of admission into a college of his choice. "I have not taken any standardized tests so far during the pandemic. I initially had planned to retake the SAT back in August but I ended changing my test date to the October date." After rescheduling to October, he came to a realization his health may determine his ability to even attend college at all. "Cases began to rise again at the start of the school year and I feared having to risk my health just to take the SAT. As the October test date was approaching, I decided last minute to just have my SAT registration fee refunded. I did not want to waste any more of my time studying/taking a test that I would end up sending to test-optional universities."

Aside from testing, Chensen found difficulties in other areas of the college application process. Aiming to attend a University of California school, he finds adversity in getting the help he needs when filling out applications. "The pandemic has stripped away my primary sources of help and guidance throughout my college application process. I can still communicate with my counselors and teachers through email but it is not the same. It would be much easier to walk into my school's college and career center to receive help or have any of my ques-

tions answered on the spot." Missing the convenience of in-person resources, Chensen finds settling for virtual assistance is not what he had hoped for when applying for college.

To the rest of his fellow seniors, Chensen leaves his final remarks. "I would like to wish the class of 2021 the best of luck with their applications! We are all in this together!"

Also a senior at Maui High School, **Jadynne Zane** shows her side of the college application process amidst this difficult situation. A top student dedicated to her future, Jadynne finds much importance in the college application process. Up until this point, many students like Jadynne have placed value on

higher test scores in order to greater increase their chances of getting into elite institutions. With many schools going test-optional, Jadynne was left in a dilemma. "When it came to standardized testing this year, I had very conflicting views about what I should have done. Since standardized testing is optional this year, this brings up the question of is it vital," Jadynne says.

Like Chensen, Jadynne also sees financial hardships playing a role in the accessibility of standardized testing. "I do not think it is an excellent decision to have testing available during times like this, primarily due to the financial aspect of many. Due to the pandemic, many individuals have lost their jobs and are financially on edge. Many are unable to afford the option of testing," Jadynne says.

Jadynne has used the colleges' decisions to her advantage, opting to focus on other components of her application. "Instead of spending my time studying for the SAT or ACT perfecting my score, I now have the option to devote my time to strengthen my essays and extracurriculars further. I decided to divert my focus on my essays and extracurriculars; however, I feel that my application is missing something." A huge factor in college decisions in times past, the absence of test scores is sure to leave a gap.

Elaborating further, Jadynne says test-optional policies have furthered her writing skills even in this time of uncertainty. "The pandemic has added a lot more uncertainty and stress amidst the college admissions process. I have heavily worked on my essays and have developed more as a writer. Since we are test-optional, there may be a bigger group of students applying to most schools and because of this, one's essays need to hold more creativity."

Today, many colleges have opted for a holistic approach to college admissions. Rather than setting rigid standards for each component of an application, the application as a whole is considered. Now that many colleges are test-optional, Jadynne is unsure how holistic admissions will be administered with the big change, stating "Because colleges are implementing this new system, we do not know how our decisions will carry out. How truthful are their statements regarding the holistic view of an applicant. Maybe having a score puts you at a higher advantage. Perhaps it does not."

Ultimately, test-optional policies

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Jadyne Zane

have helped to focus on the true definition of applicants. Jadyne believes test-blind, considering the applications without test scores at all, would be greatly beneficial as demonstrated in her own journey. “I wish colleges switched from test-optional to test-blind. Even before the pandemic, I believed that admissions based on an exam that you take once in the morning of a particular day truly does not define the individual. There comes a lot of uncertainty and doubt amongst students regarding the college admissions process and the newly implemented test-optional adds more tension.”

In this constantly evolving situation, all college applicants are finding themselves contemplating the cruciality of their test scores. As the dependence on numbers used to define students contin-

ues to lessen, applicants and admissions offices alike are learning the true value of a student. With the changes adopted during this pandemic, will the future of college admissions forever be changed? We can only hope future applicants will be able to better display themselves as a student increasingly more through personal expression rather than a numerical representation of them on a given day. Taking into account the true value of applicants will help to better build the foundation of America’s future starting from their intellectual beginnings. ✨

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 Senior at Maui High School. She is the founder and President of Maui High’s Saber-Scribes journalism club, and Vice President of the Silversword Chapter of the National Honor Society. Alexis is a part of Maui High’s air riflery team and is also a committed member of HOSA-Future Health Professionals as the Secondary Representative of the Hawai’i HOSA State Council and a HOSA state gold medalist and international finalist. Alexis hopes to one day become a Pediatric Physician. She is the daughter of Alex and Juvy Viloria.



Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Cont’d from p. 11

(beautiful) lady for her nephew. “Her nephew will definitely like this lady for sure. He is such a picky man,” Lisa thought. “I’ve introduced dozens of ladies to him and none of them he wants. He didn’t even try to call any of them. This guy would always say ‘collect and collect, then select the best.’”

ANGEL: Oh Auntie. I am single but I don’t have time for that. I have to find a job and start making money so I can help my *magulang* (parents). My dad needs to buy his medicine so he can get better.

LISA: Oh, perfect! I have a job offer for you.

ANGEL: Oh, but you don’t understand, Auntie. It’s complicated.

LISA: Don’t worry Angel. My *masanting* (handsome) nephew will take care of you. He will be your Angel. An angel for an Angel. Let’s see if he is available now.

Lisa took out her phone from her bag and entered her PIN and started going through her contacts.

Who is this lady calling now? Will this lady be able to help Angel with whatever situation she is into? Or is she bad news and will get Angel in trouble?

Visit us on our Facebook page and

leave us a comment or ideas at www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui.

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

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



In 2022, will any curent councilmember challenge Mayor Mike Victorino, if he stands for re-election?

Election ...

from p. 10

Questions

Now the races for the Council are decided, the next question is Who will be Council Chair? Will Lee retain the Chair? Will King try to reclaim it? Or will Vice Chair Rawlins-Fernandez be a sleeper?

The 2022 election will be a reapportionment election so all Maui legislative seats will be up for election (and there is a possibility that census changes may award Maui with another seat)—will all incumbents run and will they face opponents?

And in two years, will any of the

current councilmembers challenge Mayor Michael Victorino, should he run for re-election? ✨

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (B.A. Political Science *cum laude*, 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 counseling, non-profit corporations and litigation. He has been practicing law for 37 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.





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Arroz Valenciana

Ingredients

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 3 Tbsp Vegetable oil | 1 red bell pepper diced | |
| 4 Cloves Garlic minced | | |
| 2 lbs Skinless Chicken Breast cut into strips | 1/2 cup raisins | Salt to taste |
| 4 Tbsp fish sauce (Patis) | 1 can garbanzo beans | 2 tsp <i>Achuete</i> powder |
| 2 pcs. Bay leaf | 1 cup frozen green peas | 1/4 cup diced white onion |
| 2 cups frozen coconut milk | 5 cups Sticky rice (<i>Mochi</i> rice) washed & cooked | 4 pieces Chinese sausage (<i>lap cheong</i>) or 1/2 lb lean pork (cut into strips) |
| 2 cups water | 2 hard boiled eggs | |



PHOTO COURTESY MELBA MACHACON

Directions

- In a large deep pan, place heat on medium, saute garlic & onions in oil until soft, add chicken strips & chinese sausage or pork; let it cook for 10 to 15 minutes, melt *achuete* powder into the meats and add fish sauce (*patis*); add coconut milk and water; let it boil for 5 mins.
- Add the cooked sticky rice (*Mochi* Rice). Mix good & continuously mixing to make sure not to burn the rice.
- Add frozen peas, raisins, garbanzo beans, diced red bell peppers. Mix well. Mix frequently for 10 minutes until all liquids are dissolved. Once done, place in baking pan for serving, flatten the surface and garnish with sliced hard boiled eggs. Enjoy!

Salamat for sharing our Filipino recipes.

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Six Suggestions from Dr. Buntuyan

- Limit the number of people at your gathering place. Determine the size by the space that is available to allow for social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart) and which limits contact between attendees. Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. Avoid poorly ventilated and crowded enclosed indoor spaces.
- Attendees of these Holiday Celebrations should be encouraged to follow social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing. This will pose less risk of exposure to COVID. Inform guests at the gathering about any COVID safety guidelines and steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places outside of our Maui community pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees that live in the same area.
- The duration of the Holiday gathering should be considered in your planning. Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings.
- People with or exposed to COVID-19 or those awaiting COVID test results should NOT attend in-person holiday celebrations. People who are feeling sick with any symptoms like cough, fatigue, body aches, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or fever also should not attend as they can spread these symptoms of COVID and infect others.
- People at increased risk for severe illness from COVID infection also should not attend Holiday gatherings. Older adults (over age 50) and people with medical conditions (cancer, COPD, smokers, heart conditions, pregnancy, obesity, type 2 diabetes) are those at highest risk. Many of us in our Filipino community have these medical conditions and we must protect each other by avoiding in person gatherings during this Holiday season.

Holidays ...

from p. 9

one-to-two people at a time for proper distancing. We keep the windows open. For car-pooling with people outside your household, everyone in the car should wear a mask and the windows should be open at least partially.” Dr. Apoliona suggests following the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention if one is planning a party or attending one. [See “Holidays” Sidebar* on back page]

Jeanice “Jan” Paa and her family are used to having large family gatherings over the holidays. “It’s always been a family tradition to get together on Thanksgiving and Christmas for lunch and dinner with our large family. There’s lots of traditions we share during the holidays. Our family is really close and we love spending time with each other. It’s a tradition to cook our best dish and desserts and play games for bragging rights in the family. It’s always a joy and we have lots of fun!”

Paa reflects on the one thing that she will miss during the COVID-affected holidays. “The negative side is not being able to hug and kiss our kūpuna and not being able to get together as much as we used to. On the bright side, we get to spend a lot of quality time with the household in our ‘bubble,’” says Paa. “COVID-19 will change the way we celebrate with the family but it will not change the good food and great gifts that our family share. We make sure to keep our kūpuna safe! We will celebrate responsibly!”

Sadly, there are still some in Maui’s Filipino community that plan to celebrate exactly the same way as in past celebrations without any ad-

justments, claiming this too shall pass. Some are thinking, *maybe they’ll have a ZOOM party.*

“We need to support each other during the good times, such as the holidays and also through the difficult times like funerals but still be careful—all the same rules of masks and physical distancing apply because remember COVID doesn’t take a holiday,” said Dr. Apoliona. “It is so hard not to hug those people you love but it would be so much harder to know you might have spread infection to them.”

Dr. Buntuyan understands what each family is going through but cautions: “We must continue to protect our Filipino community on Maui. We have done a tremendous job so far in limiting our cases of COVID and we must continue with our amazing efforts to keep each other safe. Taking these precautions when we celebrate our holidays may seem foreign and a daunting task. These are unprecedented times that we live in. The last eight months have changed how we interact, socialize and communicate with each other. The desire to spend in person time to hug and be close to our relatives and loved ones during the holiday season is overwhelming. We can certainly be creative with our holiday gathering planning and still have a safe and wonderful time with those that we love.” ✨



Vanessa Joy Domingo is a graduate of Maui High School and is employed with the County of Maui—Department of Management, IT Services and

Coldwell Banker as a Realtor. She hopes everyone celebrates safely during the holidays and wishes everyone a holiday season full of love and hope.

Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** contributed to this story.

Kwento Kwentuhan

Gift Giving During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Christmas is just around the corner. As the feature story in this month’s *Fil-Am Voice* explores how COVID-19 changes how we celebrate our holidays, particularly on how we gather, I thought it is also worth talking story about the changes in gift giving during this season.

Here are a few reminders and suggestion:

1. Order early if you are buying gifts online. To avoid crowds and the possibility of contracting the COVID-19 virus, many people will shop online. We who live on Maui already know it takes time for products we order online to arrive on Maui. During this holiday season, however, we need to order even earlier than usual. Many online stores have holiday sales going on right now. No need to wait for Black Friday or Cyber Monday to shop. The Made in Maui County Festival went virtual this year on November 7 and 8. That is just one example. Aside from avoiding delays in delivery, there are also possibilities of selling out fast. What you see in an online store today might not be available tomorrow or maybe the size you want might be sold out. Don’t wait, order now.

2. Buy Local. I understand there might be products not available locally. However, I highly suggest—actually I urge you—to buy locally to help Maui’s local entrepreneurs. As we all know, Maui’s businesses suffered due to the major decline of tourism industry because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Buying local will be a tremendous help to our economy.

3. Gifting food, gift cards and necessities. With the



Basic necessities like food made from your own kitchen make excellent gifts. Make sure your gourmet-game is tight, though ...

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

high rate of unemployment, many are lacking and don’t even have enough money to buy the basic needs such as food and medicine. A gift card they can use to buy groceries or go eat out in a restaurant or order to go, will all be appreciated. Maybe a gift card to Longs so they can spend it on medicine or health supplements. Maybe a gift basket filled with groceries or fresh produce, fresh fruits and veggies from the local farmers would be welcome.

4. Building skills and improving talents. Another gift which will keep on giving is paying for classes building skills and improving talents: art class, cooking class, learn to play golf, to sew, to dance, to play ‘ukulele, guitar, piano and so on. Can you think of something your loved ones want to learn but just don’t have the time to learn and don’t have the money to enroll in a class? Maybe this season is the time to give them that gift. Maybe the new skill will be instrumental to someone getting a new better paying job or starting a business.

5. Home made gifts. Some of us might not even have a budget to buy a gift this season. How about making them? I can think of many homemade goodies I would love to receive, like *pan de sal*, *leche flan*, etc. If you have the skills to cook and have some ingredients at home, giving baked goods or dishes is a great idea! Maybe you are not a baker but great at sewing, then sew something and give as gifts. As a father, maybe you can make a desk, a doll house or a swing.

6. Service with love. Okay, maybe you don’t even have ingredients to bake nor materials to sew ... but you have the skills and time. Babysitting for a single mom; cleaning a house of a senior friend; driving someone to a place they want to visit like Haleakalā or Īao Valley. How about fixing a car or plumbing? You can be creative in giving the gift of time and service.

7. Gift of time and encouragement. This COVID-19 pandemic left many feeling lonely. Sometimes all a person needs is someone to be with them and talk to them and encourage them. This is a precious gift. Think of someone you can give this gift to this season. And if you can’t go in person, maybe



Preparing for Christmas gift giving in 2020.

PHOTO: ALOHABOXEDHAWAII.COM

a phone call, FaceTime, or write a letter or send a card.

I understand 2020 is a hard year for us. But don’t let it deter us from expressing our love to others through gift giving. And for an extra dose of love, if you are able, why not give to some local charities as well? Maui Food Bank, Feed My Sheep, #BayanihanFoodDistribution and Habitat For Humanity are some examples and there are more.

As I am thinking of a line to close this month’s edition of *Kwento-Kwentuhan*, the line on that famous Christmas song comes to mind ... Give love on Christmas Day. ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading Aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife,



a mother, a friend ... and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Interactive Media Strategist with Wailea Realty Corp.



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HOSTING GATHERINGS OR COOK-OUTS

Remind guests to stay home if they are sick

- Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. Invited guests who live with those at higher risk should also consider the potential risk to their loved ones.
- Consider keeping a list of guests who attended for potential future contact tracing needs.

Encourage social distancing

- Host your gathering outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated (for example, open a window).
- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. People from the same household can be in groups together and don't need to be 6 feet apart – just 6 feet away from other families.
- If planning activities for adults and/or kids, consider those where social distancing can be maintained, like sidewalk chalk art or frisbee.
- When guests arrive, minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, don't shake

hands, do elbow bumps, or give hugs. Instead wave and verbally greet them.

Wear masks

- Wear masks when less than 6 feet apart from people or indoors.
- Consider providing masks for guests or asking them to bring their own.

Clean hands often

- Consider providing hand sanitizer in addition to clearly marked hand washing areas.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting social gatherings. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Make sure there is adequate soap or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available in the restrooms and encourage guests not to form a line at the door. Consider also providing cleaning supplies that allow guests to wipe down surfaces before they leave.
- Remind guests to wash their hands before serving or eating food.
- Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands so guests do not share a towel.
- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.

Limit the number of people handling or serving food

- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.
- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen or around the grill, if possible.
- If serving any food, consider identifying one person to serve all food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.
- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve shareable items, like salad dressings, food containers, and condiments, so that multiple people are not handling the items.

Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items

- Use touchless garbage cans or pails.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible.
- If you choose to use any shared items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins), wash, clean, and sanitize them after the event.

ATTENDING AN EVENT OR GATHERING

Prepare before you go

- Stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (symptoms

of COVID-19), if you are waiting for COVID-19 test results or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

- Check with the organizer or event venue for updated information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and if they have steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Prioritize attending outdoor activities over indoor activities and stay within your local area as much as possible.
- Bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy—for example, masks (bring extra), hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and drinking water.

Use social distancing and limit physical contact

- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet or more from people who don't live in your household. Be particularly mindful in areas where it may harder to keep this distance, such as check-in areas, parking lots and routes of entry and exit.
- Select seating or determine where to stand based on the ability to keep 6 feet of space from people who don't live in your household, including if you will be eating or drinking.
- Arrive to the event early or at off-peak times to avoid crowding and congested areas.
- Avoid using restroom facilities or concession areas at high traffic

times, such as intermission, half-time, or immediately at the end of the event.

Wear masks

- Wear a mask when interacting with other people to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus.
 - † Wearing masks is most important when social distancing is difficult.
 - † Masks are strongly encouraged in settings where individuals might raise their voices, such as shouting, chanting or singing.

Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items

- Use touch less garbage cans or pails and cash less payment options when possible. Otherwise, exchange cash or card by placing payment in a receipt tray, if available or on the counter.
- Avoid any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, salad bars and condiment or drink stations. Use grab-and-go meal options, if available.
- Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes, if available.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer immediately before eating food or after touching any common surfaces like hand railings, payment kiosks, door handles and toilets.

"HOLIDAYS" (*SIDEBAR) Cont'd from p. 14