



Legislative Successes and Challenges

Pandemic yields change, good & bad

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Even in a Pandemic, One Must Eat!

True, but one cannot be a one-trick-pony.

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Choosing the Good in Bad Times

Editor exhorts: Do What is Right.

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Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

inside



Dr Buntuyan, a force for cure during COVID-19.

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Pinay Doctor authors poignant cultural novel.

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Due to the pandemic, only a few people were in attendance during the final approval of the State Budget by the Conference Committee.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

The 2021 State Legislature Ends

Success or disappointment? Maui's legislative team comments.

Alfredo G. Evangelista
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This session was a little disappointing for me,” asserts Representative

Tina Wildberger (D-Kihei, Wailea, Mākena). The Vice Chair of the House Government Reform Committee (“Gov. Reform”) feels the House missed several opportunities to re imagine our economy. “We failed to make critical changes to the status quo in the wake of the pandemic to create a silver lining in this dark cloud of hardship that

COVID-19 presented,” she concludes.

Still, Wildberger and other members of Maui's Legislative delegation found some reasons to celebrate in stabilizing the state budget outlook.

“Our main job as legislators is to approve a balanced State Budget,” explained Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran (D-Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kahului),

Vice Chairman of the Senate Ways & Means (“WAM”) committee. With the assistance of the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) federal funds, he claims the Legislature successfully passed a budget that filled in the huge local financial hole caused by the pandemic-related economic meltdown. Keith-Agaran's fellow
see LEGISLATURE next page



Chefs Macadangdang, Balagso and Simeon at the August 2019 fundraiser for Binhi at Ani.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the Philippine Consulate General in Hawaii's upcoming sponsorship of Filipino Food Week from June 6 through June 12—as of press time, Maui's Joey's Kitchen and Tante's Island Cuisine are scheduled to partici-

pate—the Fil-Am Voice examines how the pandemic affected three Chefs of Filipino ancestry.

In March 2020, when the first impacts of COVID-19 hit Maui, the outcomes the pandemic would have on the community were almost

Three Chefs and the Pandemic

Alexis Viloria

unimaginable. With the number of visitors decreasing tremendously, traffic to local establishments diminished, leaving nothing but locals to ensure the survival of local businesses. Even with consistent efforts to save treasured establishments token to Maui's community, many businesses hit hard by the pandemic, including beloved local eatery Da Kitchen, have gone under.

A year later Maui is still in the midst of the pandemic but slowly, tourism is bouncing back and locals have created and adapted to a new normal to keep Maui afloat. The journey from the beginning of the pandemic, although tumultuous, has proven the re-

silience of the community towards the common cause of everybody's wellbeing and prosperity even in these difficult times. Three outstanding Pinoy chefs who have experienced their share of challenges thanks to the presence of COVID-19 describe their expeditions from the past to the present of the pandemic.

Chef Joey Macadangdang of Joey's Kitchen speaks to the obstacles he faced over the past year. At the first touch-down of the pandemic, Chef Macadangdang felt he knew the fate of his career. At the time with two locations in Kā'anapali and Nāpili, as the income of visitors ended,

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FREE



Rep. Tina Wildberger



Sen. Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran



Sen. Roz Baker



Rep. Angus McKelvey

Legislature ...

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Senator, Rosalyn Baker (D-South and West Maui), Chairperson of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Affairs committee agreed: “Clearly the most important bill that the Legislature passed this year is HB200, CD1 which is the State Budget bill.” Going into the session, the Legislature faced, depending on projections, a shortfall anywhere from \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion in general tax revenues.

“Working with our federal partners and the new Biden administration, we were able to pull down millions of federal dollars to replace state funds for critical services programs and positions in Maui,” stated State Representative Angus McKelvey (D-West Maui, Mā‘alaea, North Kihei), Gov. Reform chair. Without the bailout

from the federal government, McKelvey, Wildberger and their fellow Representatives concede there would be major job losses and department cuts. Under the budget bill passed, the departments received approximately a 10 percent reduction in their budgets. The federal monies came with strings, including limiting the ability of the State and Counties from providing new tax relief and requiring general tax support of lower and higher education remain in the same proportion of spending as in pre-pandemic budgets. The “strings” dissuaded the Legislature from some proposals, Keith-Agaran noted, “We also couldn’t ad-

dress providing tax relief for working people who collected unemployment benefits as a result of the pandemic shutdown and for businesses who had their pandemic loans forgiven.”

“With the help of our Congressional delegation, the most significant accomplishment was being able to prevent the furloughs and layoffs that were originally proposed for state workers, including teachers,” observed Representative Justin Woodson (D-Kahului, Pu‘unēnē, Old Sand Hills, Maui Lani), House Education committee chair. “This was extremely important because the furloughs and layoffs would have nega-

tively impacted our children throughout the state.” Woodson called the lack of financial certainty at the beginning of and during the session “the greatest challenge.”

State Representative Troy Hashimoto (D-Wailuku), Vice Chair of the House Housing Committee, concurred: “Passing a balanced budget without any public employee furloughs or major reductions to important public services, while also assisting the business community impacted by COVID-19.”

Baker noted HB 200, CD1 “contains both the operating budget for the many State departments of the Executive Branch but also provides funding for important capital improvement projects (CIP) throughout Hawai‘i.” Baker gave high marks to Keith-Agaran, who was responsible for the

“... the most significant accomplishment was being able to prevent the furloughs and layoffs that were originally proposed for state workers, including teachers.”

— REP. JUSTIN WOODSON

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Mahalo

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BayerCropScienceHawaii @Bayer4CropsHI



Science for a better life



Rep. Justin Woodson



Rep. Troy Hashimoto



Maui’s House delegation.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

Chefs ...

from p. 1

Joey’s Kitchen at Whaler’s Village had to be put on hold. A striking parallel to other restaurants across the island, the closure was not easy for Chef Macadangdang, having to let go of staff who depended on the restaurant. “It affected me personally because it was hard to let my staff go,” Macadangdang stated.

While many were able to quarantine within the comfort of their home, waiting for the storm to pass, Chef Macadangdang spent significant amounts of time from the begin-



Chef Joey Macadangdang.
PHOTO COURTESY JOEY MACADANGDANG

ning working just to keep his Nāpili location open. “It really challenged me to keep Joey’s Kitchen Nāpili open throughout the pandemic.”

As if fighting for his restaurant to stay open wasn’t enough, when Chef Macadangdang tested positive for COVID-19, he was faced with the very thing he was battling against. “The biggest challenge I faced was when I tested positive with COVID-19 back in September of 2020 that we had to close the restaurant. (At that moment) I said that is it, my career is over and we may not be able to regain back the restaurant.”

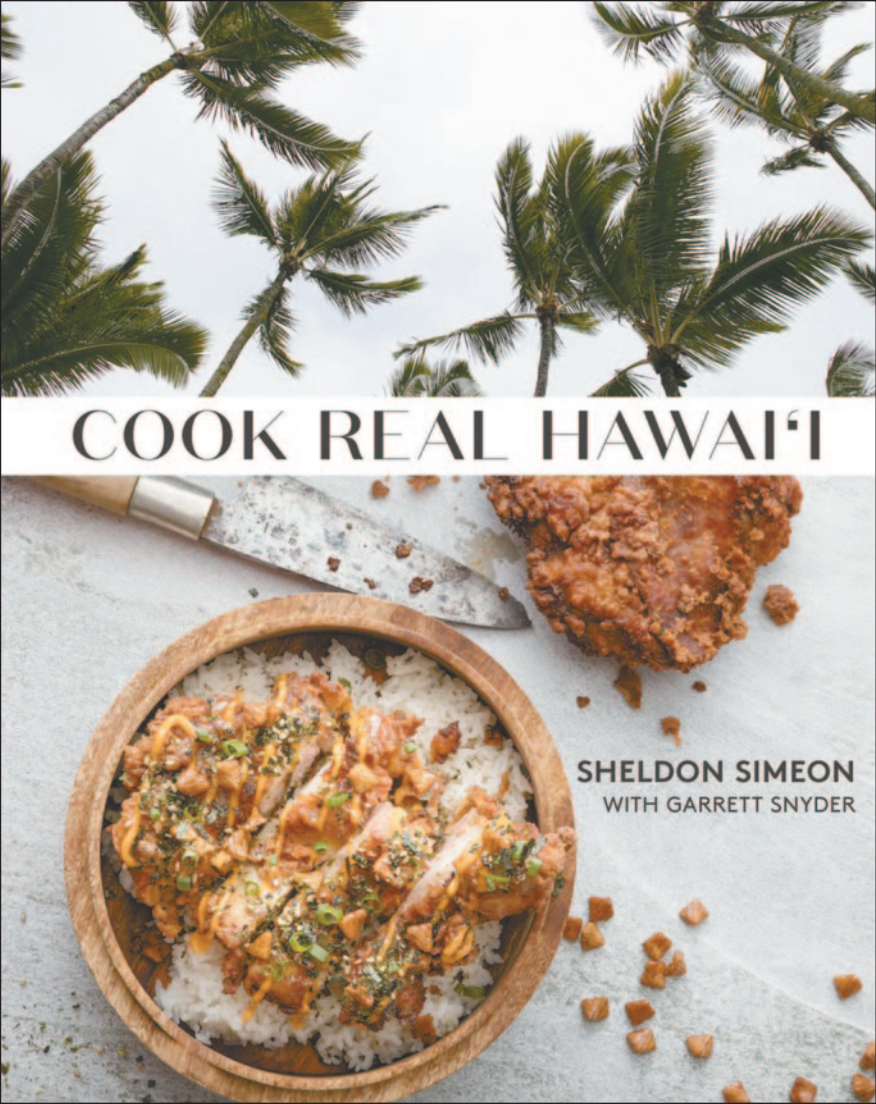
Despite a periodical loss in hope, for Chef Macadangdang, it was refreshing to see the community so quick to show their support for him. “During my isolation post-

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Rockstar Chef Sheldon Simeon with his wife shows the book he recently published, “Cook Real Hawai’i.”

PHOTO COURTESY SHELDON SIMEON



Chef Joey Macadangdang’s crew workers. Chef Joey currently has two locations open, Joey’s Kitchen in Nāpili, and one at the Whaler’s Village in Kā’anapali.

PHOTO COURTESY JOEY MACADANGDANG



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DON'T HESITATE, VACCINATE
THIS IS OUR SHOT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY



Maui Health continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible residents and do our part to help end this pandemic. Visit our website to see if you qualify to receive a vaccine at a Maui Health vaccine clinic location at mauihealth.org/covidvaccine.

WHY GET VACCINATED?

IT'S SAFE
The COVID-19 vaccine may be new, but the technology used to create it has been around for over 20 years. Safety studies were done in thousands of patients and now millions have already been vaccinated with very limited side effects. The best protection we have is to get vaccinated. The more people that get vaccinated, the faster we can end this pandemic.

IT'S HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, EVEN AGAINST SOME VARIANTS
The efficacy rate for the three COVID-19 vaccines currently being offered in the U.S. is between 75– 95%. Studies have shown new strains or variants of the COVID-19 virus are even more contagious, but the good news is research has shown the current vaccines are effective against these new variants.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO
Getting vaccinated helps prevent you from getting COVID-19, so you are less likely to spread it to others – especially those who are more vulnerable to severe illness and even death.

SIDE EFFECTS ARE MINIMAL
In large clinical trials, most side effects have been minor and typically only last a few days. And remember, experiencing a mild side effect isn't necessarily all bad, it means the vaccine is working, and your body is building protection against the virus. The COVID-19 vaccine does not include a live COVID virus, therefore it is impossible for the vaccine to give you the virus.

GET BACK TO WORK, GET BACK TO LIFE
Less disease in our community means less restrictions - in public spaces, your workplace, gatherings, and travel, which means we can finally see our loved ones again, both at home and across the world.

IT'S FREE
Everyone can get the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of your ability to pay or whether you have insurance.

Maui Memorial Medical Center
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic
Kula Hospital and Clinic
Lānaʻi Community Hospital

#THISISOURSHOT



MAUI HEALTH
Community hospitals affiliated with KAISER PERMANENTE.



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Whenever I am with my grandbabies, I am struck by their joy, innocence, natural curiosity and the trust in their eyes, knowing they are loved.

PHOTOS COURTESY BAGOYO 'OHANA

Let's Choose Love and Kindness Over Hate and Racism

In the past several years, we have seen many reports on hate and racism, not just in our country but in the world. It seems we live in a world full of hate. When did we become so numb we don't even question it anymore? This past week, I was listening to a song by Josh Wilson entitled, *Revolutionary*. One of the lines of the song that really caught my ear is "Why does kindness seem revolutionary... and when did we let hate get so ordinary?"

Whenever I am with my grandbabies, I am struck by their joy, innocence, natural curiosity and the trust in their eyes, knowing they are loved. Even more striking is the reminder no babies are born with hate in their hearts—hate is learned by the words and examples of negative, hateful people

around them. That is an urgent change we can all work on together—one by one, couple by couple, family by family, group by group, church by church, school by school, community by community.

Love is the choice we can make in every decision to be kind, to give care and concern to others, to place the welfare of all else above our own, to bring a smile to a baby's face, which in turn brings a smile to our faces. Love is always the best choice.

Wilson's song inspired me to remind us we all need to fervently, urgently strive to choose love and kindness over hate and racism. With all the negativity and division happening in our country right now, we need love and kindness more than ever. Let us pledge

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



The last photo of the Maui Senate delegation.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Legislature ...

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Senate's CIP budget while State Representative Kyle Yamashita (D-Spreckelsville, Pukalani, Makawao, Kula, Kēōkea, 'Ulupalakua, Kahului) led House CIP negotiations. "*Mahalo nui loa* to Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, for doing such a terrific job in crafting the CIP budget and to Senator J. Kalani English, a WAM member, and our Majority Leader who always looks out for the best interests of our islands and unfortunately resigned his Senate seat due to the lingering impacts of his bout with COVID-19."

Keith-Agaran explained the public works spending included "\$296 million for Maui projects (not including projects embedded within various lump sum appropriations)."

The Maui delegation identified various CIP projects on Maui that received funding:

- Baldwin High School (electrical upgrades)
- New Central Maui Elementary-Middle School (design)
- New Central Maui Wastewater Treatment Plant (funds to match County)
- Ha'ikū Elementary (various repair and renovations)
- Hāna Bridges (continuing bridge preservation implementation)
- Hāna Highway (improvements and rockfall mitigation Huelo-Hāna)
- Hāna High and Elementary (renovation of culinary arts facilities)
- Hoapili Hale (security improvements; parking structure renovations)

- Kahului Harbor (modernization implementation)
- Kēōkea-Waiohuli Hawaiian Home Lands (Phase 2B & 3)
- King Kekaulike (black box theater)
- Lahainaluna High School (teacher housing)
- Lahaina Intermediate (play court improvements)
- Makawao Public Library (expansion)
- Maui Community Correctional Center (expanded housing)
- Maui High School (field house design)
- Maui Health Systems (additional ICU beds, COVID care units and COVID ICU; lump sum for various renovations, repair and maintenance at Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lāna'i Community Health Center)
- Maui Produce Processing Cooperative (Kula vacuum cooling facility repairs)
- Maui Waena Intermediate School (whole school renovations)
- Molokai High School (gym renovation)
- Molokai Veterans Center (repair and renovations)
- Nā Wai 'Ehā Watershed (acquisition)
- Pālā'au State Park (renovations and maintenance)
- Upcountry Maui (deer fencing)
- Wai'ānapanapa State Park (construction of planned improvements)
- Waihe'e Elementary (covered outdoor learning space)
- Wailuku Elementary (parking lot improvements; electrical upgrades;

see LEGISLATURE p.8



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May 1st is Lei Day in Hawai'i. It is a celebration of the Aloha spirit in the Hawaiian culture. Every school has its own May Day performances but due to the pandemic, the students didn't do any performances this year. When we get through this pandemic and go back to normal, we hope to watch the May Day King and Queen dance with the Royal Court performances representing each island again. May is also a celebration of Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all the Nanay, Inang, Inay, Yena, Ima, especially to my mom, Dolly Butay. Happy Mother's Day to my sisters, Daisy, Dianne and Debbie and to my daughter, Vanessa Kate Erin. Wanna

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

er's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all the Nanay, Inang, Inay, Yena, Ima, especially to my mom, Dolly Butay. Happy Mother's Day to my sisters, Daisy, Dianne and Debbie and to my daughter, Vanessa Kate Erin. Wanna

express your love or write a message to your mom or wife this Mother's Day or on her birthday? Here's something you can practice on. Thank you for loving and caring for me. I love you. In Ilokano: *Agyamanak iti*

pinangipateg mo ken pinangdunggom kanyak. Ay-ayaten ka. In Tagalog: Salamat sa pagmamahal at pag-aaruga sa akin. Mahal kita. In Ilonggo: Madamo gid nga salamat sa pagpalangga kag paghalong sa akon. Palangga gid taka. Cebuano: Daghang salamat sa paghigugma ug pagpalangga nimo sa akoa. Gihigugma taka.

Where are we in the story of Michael and Angel? Let's find out.

ANGEL BREAKS DOWN and sobs. "I came to the U.S. because I wanted to help my family. I wanted to feed my family and be able to buy medicine for my dad. I wanted my mom to be able to buy food and not worry when my siblings will be able to eat. I didn't know it was all a scam. My family borrowed *kwarta* (money) from a lot of people just for me to get here. I want to do *trabaho* (work). I want to send them *salapi* (money) so I can pay those people who we owe *pera* (money) to. Michael, *nanoyin* (what) can I do?" Angel belts out a stream of emotion for the first time and the unbearable tears fall to the ground.

Michael reaches out to give her a *yakap* (hug) and pulls her into his arms. He is *gagap-pan* (hugging) her as if she was the only thing in the *kalibutan* (world) that matters.

With a mournful look in her *mukat* (face), Angel *gakos* (hugs) him back.

They *arakup* (hug) for a long time, his *korason* (heart) singing and confused at the same time.

He *kawul* (hugs) her until she stops sobbing. His *puso* (heart) aches for her.

"Ana (What) are we going to do?" thinks Michael.

Michael wipes away the teardrop from her cheek and tells her "Come with me."

Angel buries her *arap* (face) deeper into his chest. He feels a great sense of tension just fallen from her. She begins to cry again. And he holds her.

"Hani (What) is this? Ano (What) is this feeling? I have a beautiful strong woman in my arms. She is crying her *puso* (heart) out. I'm here holding her, being all manly and stuff. She is just melting inside."

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanovin?
Clothes	Damit	Bado	Sinina	Bayo	Sinnun	Malan
Hurry	Dali	Alistuam	Pagmata	Dali a	Alistuam mu	Billisan
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Kiss	Halik	Anggo	Paghalok	Haluk	Ummo	Muma
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Work	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tufu	Puso	Ksaingkasing	Korason

not the one melting. I am not the one folding. I am the strength. Yes, I can be that for her. I can be her rock. God let me be her rock. What do I do?" thinks Michael.

As Angel melts further and further into Michael, Michael with his *kas- ingkasing* (heart) pumping and his mind racing, moves his *gamat* (hands) slowly up her sides. The electricity that is coming out from his *lima* (hands), she can feel every bit of it. She sobs further and further. The smell of his fragrance on his body, to the feel of his shirt on her *nawong* (face). The touch of his *ima* (hands) on her side. She can't help it. She has been longing to be loved for so long. She has been longing for someone to hold her

like this, for someone to tell her everything will be okay. Is this him? Did God send him to me?

Michael's *kamay* (hands) move the way that they want. Briskly grazing her arm and then her shoulder. Chills running down her back, she finally looks at him with bloodshot eyes. They look at each other for just a second. Her dilated pupils open for him,

giving him access deep into her soul. There he sees the extreme pain and hurt that is trapped inside. A girl desperate to come out, distressed and tired.

Michael thinks: "Ano (What) is this feeling? I feel a different energy. I feel power. I feel strength. I feel empathy, and compassion. I feel obligation and warmth. Anni (What) is this that I'm feeling? Is this the feeling of being a man? Is this *ana* (what) it's like to care for a woman? Is this the feeling of Love?"

There is a power brewing inside of him that is churning and bubbling. His eyes turning from a helpless boy to a strong loving man. He looks at her with a new conviction. And slowly cups both of his *kamay* (hands) around her jaw. At this moment Angel drops her defenses as Michael firmly goes in for a *ummo* (kiss).

This *halik* (kiss) was his first and so was hers. In a wild turn of events that led to this moment in the kitchen of Lydia's house. Without a single word being said, Angel surrenders her *puso* (heart) to Michael and Michael internally vows to protect her. All the buildup of the tensions for the past few days is released and a new bond fortified through the heat as they rest their *mukha* (faces) on each other.

Michael goes in for another *anggo* (kiss) and then grabs her *kamot* (hand).

"Go pack some *damit* (clothes) and your important stuff," Michael says.

"Huh? Where are we ..." Angel tries to ask.

"Away from here. ... *Alistuam* (hurry) and meet me outside," Michael firmly says.

"Only the important ones," says Angel, confused but she hurries to her room.

"What am I packing?" she asks herself.

She opens the closet and grabs the backpack that Rosie gave her and walks toward the bed and looks around the room.

What do you think is going through Angel's mind? What is Michael's plan? Where are they going? What are they going to do? Keep an eye for the next issue. Please visit us on our Facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at www.facebook.com/FilAmVoice-Maui.

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 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i - West Oahu. 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 Saladmaster's Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.





Veteran Archie Domingo receives his Moderna vaccine.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Catherine Guillermo receives her Moderna vaccine.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Vaccine Hesitancy And Why You Should Get Immunized From COVID-19

Errol Buntuyan, M.D.

Vaccinations for COVID-19 are now open to people aged 12 and older in the state of Hawai'i. Many organizations are offering the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines with opportunities almost every day of the week in various Maui locations. Below is the link to a website that have current locations where covid-19 vaccinations are being provided on Maui.
<https://www.mauinuistrong.info/covid19-info>

The Moderna and J&J vaccines are available to people over age 18 while Pfizer is eligible for ages 12 and up. There are already studies underway that will help determine the Emergency Use Authorization to include our pediatric population eligibility to receive these COVID vaccines. Once approved, our keiki will be able to get inoculated and become protected from infection. All three available vaccines in the United States have been deemed safe. The single-dose Johnson and Johnson

vaccine has been reinstated for distribution after a brief pause. There were reports of the rare occurrence (6 cases out of 6.8 million shots) of post vaccination blood clots in women under 50 years old. The chance of this happening is extremely low and has not been noted to frequently occur outside of this demographic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommend anyone with concerns about this vaccine should consult with their healthcare provider or choose one of the other two dose Moderna and Pfizer vaccine options. Thus far Maui County has been doing fairly well in getting vaccinated. At the end of April, the County of Maui was at 51 percent fully vaccinated and 33 percent receiving at least one dose. So please continue to arrange to receive your COVID vaccines. Many organizations on Maui are now doing 'walk in' (no appointment needed) clinics to receive the vaccine.

are fearful of side effects. Others are uncertain of vaccine efficacy or do not want the second shot because they may feel temporarily sick the next day. Some folks are willing to wait until more information on other options of vaccines become available. If you know someone or if you are in doubt about getting immunized, here are three main reasons to consider getting vaccinated.

First, the long-term symptoms from COVID infection have been noted in up to 30 percent of people that are infected. Symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, chest discomfort, palpitations, brain fog, headache, anxiety, hair loss, joint pains, etc. can last beyond six months. It is hard to imagine feeling ill with these symptoms for such a long period of time, yet many have been diagnosed with this 'Long Term COVID' condition. Thus, it is important to avoid contracting COVID disease in the first place by getting vaccinated and prevent catching this infection.

Long-term symptoms from COVID-19 are cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, chest discomfort, palpitations, brain fog, headache, anxiety, hair loss, joint pains, etc. can last beyond six months.

Though it seems Maui is heading in the right direction, unfortunately we are seeing hesitancy to receive these COVID vaccines. Many vaccine clinics have plenty of open appointment slots with a surplus of vaccines available. People that are reluctant to getting inoculated have doubted its safety and

The second reason to consider COVID vaccination is the Vaccine Passport program. During this month of May, this new program will allow those that receive their vaccinations in Hawai'i to bypass COVID testing and

see ITI SALUN AT YO p.13



U.H. Maui College nursing student Lennel Alvarez explains the intake process to Dr. Buntuyan.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

From the

Editor's Desk

Cont'd from p. 4

to choose kindness over hate, not just because it is the right thing to do but because it will make our country and the world a better place for us and the generations to follow.

Here are some of the lyrics of Josh Wilson's song entitled *Revolutionary*:

Maybe you're not like me
Maybe we don't agree
Maybe that doesn't mean we gotta be enemies.
Maybe we just get brave
Take a big leap of faith
Call a truce so me and you can find a better way.

Let's take some time, open our eyes, look, and listen, yeah
And we're gonna find we're more alike than we are different, yeah.


Why does kindness seem revolutionary?
When did we let hate get so ordinary?
Let's turn it around, flip the script,

Judge slow, love quick
God help us get revolutionary ...

I hope this song will inspire all of us to choose kindness over hate. Let us start today. Let love be woven into the depths of our hearts, to be expressed in kindness in our actions, to give good care to ourselves so we can be of better service to others.

Daily I am reminded of the words in the Holy Bible that our calling is intimately tied in to how Jesus lived, as described in Micah 6:8—do what's right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. What a wonderful world it will be if and when we all choose love and kindness over hate. Let's begin now!

God bless us all! ✨



VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

My grandmother Laureana was the keeper of our family lore. She came to Hawai'i late—I was already born and my mother Ejang pregnant with my sister. Mama Urya would spin out tales randomly while she worked in the kitchen and we sat doing our homework or enjoying a snack at the table after school.

She mentioned once that one of our kin had died during the Japanese occupation. I think she said he drowned. She never went into more explanation and the other adults never went into detail when I later asked.

My grandfather Lino spent his World War II working on O'ahu. The others in my family—my father Manuel and his future wife Lydia—remained in the motherland and lived through the years when Japan forced the Philippines into its Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. My grandmother came to Hawai'i eighteen years after World War II ended. I never explicitly heard the drowning was linked to the occupiers but I came to assume it.

Local Maui psychologist Virginia Cantorna recounts how she read a lot as a child, en-

during lockdown. I realized," she recalls "that I had better follow my own advice. So, in 2020 she decided to finish a story "percolating in my head since about age 13 and I had started writing over ten years ago."

Some believe that much fiction is just autobiography with different names. Cantorna's own family trauma memory also came in an aside: "I think I was in the 8th grade when my mother told me nonchalantly that the

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

The Secrets That We Keep
"Dark on the Inside: A Novel"

By Virginia Cantorna
(Aviva Publishing 2021)

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

women in her village were raped by the Japanese." Cantorna says her mother never mentioned it again and she never asked, "Mommy, were you raped?" But her sisters and Cantorna suspected some trauma since their mother would often reflect how much she hated being kissed

on the lips. "That was the seed," says Cantorna, for what her characters call "the Event."

The story of Ligaya "Liling" Ugale and her family unfolds chronologically from several first-person narrators (something that might be familiar to readers of epic fiction like *Game of Thrones*). In early versions, Cantorna initially "fictionalized the story using third person omniscient—which is that the narrator enters the heads of several characters." When several readers advised Cantorna they found that point of view confusing, she switched to a first-person point of view.

While Cantorna tried to differentiate the voices within the same chapter, she eventually chose to give the main characters separate chapters in which to tell their stories. At times, however, the voices—Ligaya Ugale, her sister Glory, and even her eventual beau Pitong—are not distinct enough in my reading.

The story takes place in the provinces, in one of the small barrios eventually invaded by the occupying Japanese soldiers. It's a tough tale with a lot of understated pathos.



Laureana Agaran, her grandchildren and daughter.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH AGARAN

Set in a rural village, the story centers on daughters in an impoverished family. As Liling describes her family, "My mother has much to bear. An abusive husband. All six of my brothers, either emancipated or dead. Two unmarried daughters, both now in our mid-twenties, still living at home—

Gloriana, the eldest girl, seventh in a string of eight births—and me; I am the youngest."

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the invasion of the Philippines, Ligaya's mother comments about her life and abusive marriage:

see CANTORNA next page



Dr. Cantorna's book launches on May 18.
PHOTO COURTESY DR. VIRGIE CANTORNA

joying the epic historical novels of the great James (Michener and Clavell) as well as the family memory fictions of stories like *The Joy Luck Club*. From even her childhood reading of *Charlotte's Web*, "I thought, someday I would like to write like these authors." Someday, she recently noted in a podcast about her first novel to be launched on May 18, *Dark on the Inside*, came last year at the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

Cantorna advises some patients to try to "achieve something meaningful



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Dr. Virginia "Virgie" Cantorna
PHOTO COURTESY DR. VIRGIE CANTORNA

Cantorna ...

from p. 5

"In all my life, no one has offered me steak. I must accept what *Apo Dios* has given me. It is part of God's plan." *Mamang* made the sign of the cross. She repeated the fatalistic message. "He is my damned husband, and I shall not leave him. It is God's will."

That sentiment reflects a somewhat stark fatalism about this life—that you play the hand you've been dealt as well as you can—that perhaps you can only survive by enduring. In Christian terms, trials are inevitable in this earthly life. As James wrote, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

But this is not a Christian novel, despite all the characters displaying Catholic piety or at least knowledge of the traditions. Christianity, in this novel, provides little earthly consolation. It's tragic that awareness of the history informs you life will only get harder for *Mamang* and her brood during this war.

Yet the story does not propel itself to the Event. Instead, the Event thrusts itself into the narrative almost unexpectedly and clinically. The human trauma, including the rapes, occurs with some numbness and distance. Sounds. Cries. Grunts. And then the Event simply haunts and is kept on the fringes of villager memories.

As it turns out, in this story, there is no redemption for the occupiers and little salve for their victims. Even the late introduction of a *Sakada* suitor of one of the main characters is not so much redemptive as just a way to continue the life journey away from the *barrio* to the shores of Hawai'i (where a promised sequel appears to be located).

SPOILER ALERT: I did like the touch of Pitong using a *luna's* new car as a prop for a photograph that he would later slip to his prospective bride Liling.

I pressed my thumb on the photo where the car ornament was printed, as if claiming the vehicle as my own. I traced the fender on the shiny, sleek automobile. Pitong's elevated foot was posed on the tire and his

elbow was perched on his bent knee. He looked as sharp as the car.

Settling in the Buick next to my handsome husband, wearing a sun hat and dark glasses like the starlets of Hollywood, was what I envisioned. I pressed my fingers to my lips to stifle a girlish reaction. The God of Goodness was being good to me.

When she finally arrives in the islands, she wonders why she is being picked up in a truck.

It's a difficult story to read—Cantorna says it's meant to be a tale about the "devastating effects of hate, discrimination, and prejudice" amidst a war. But there's plenty of Filipino culture introduced or referenced throughout the account.

Perhaps actual use of Ilokano at times may have added to the richness of the narrative. For example, Cantorna writes, "*Papang* screamed the most terrible profanity a Filipino could say, literally translated into 'Your mother's [female genital].'" She could have used the real word and later inserted the invective's meaning.

The story is also hard perhaps because the older folks never talked about their Wartime experiences and never shared it—and the years and generations have now distanced us even more from those memories. Perhaps the next installment which likely will be about plantation life in the



Baby Virgie with her mother Valeriana Donia Dagdag.
PHOTO COURTESY DR. VIRGIE CANTORNA

post-war years will capture the struggles of maintaining Filipino culture and perhaps just the memory of that culture in a different place. But I am concerned with Pitong's summary of his *Sakada* life:

I flew back to the Philippines one year after relocating to Hawai'i, eager to meet Ligaya and arrange my marriage to her. On the flight, I reflected upon my time in Hawai'i. Plantation work was hard, but I earned much more money than any nonprofessional in the Philippines. I learned all the stages of farming sugar—planting, growing, ripening, and harvesting. Harvesting required setting massive fires to burn the outer leaves. I almost burned to death in a wild cane blaze—except for that near tragedy, I felt grateful for making the decision to immigrate.

I expect my own *Sakada* kin would have been more introspective about their lives so far away from home. "Lucky come Hawai'i," my father would say with some irony. But then again, he joined the union on the boat taking him to the islands.



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran represents Central Maui in the State Senate. He once won Honorable Mention in The Honolulu Magazine short story contest for his entry, "Two Goats."



Members of the House Committee on Housing.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

Legislature ...

from p. 4

campus-wide air-conditioning project)

All politics being local, West Maui Rep. McKelvey highlighted HB 1311 HD2 SD2 CD1. "This measure not only secured \$37 million for the construction of much-needed affordable rental units in Lahaina but also provided a pathway to ensure the proper steps were taken for archaeological reviews of affected sites as well as saving the Front Street apartments once and for all."

Education lead Woodson noted the importance of passing HB613 which provided funding to air condition all remaining public school classrooms, among other allocations of federal funding for the public school system. "It also offers teachers a one-time \$2,200 bonus and provides funding to address school issues related to the pandemic," added Woodson.

Keith-Agaran observed how "the entire delegation helped push through honoring Mayor Elmer F. Cravalho by renaming the Kahului

a nonresident fishing license program, increasing funding for enforcement and ensuring free and unmitigated access for cultural gathering rights;

- HB1176 – allocating \$5 million for up to 1,000 participants in a Green Job Youth Corps program;
- HB 1192 HD1 SD2 CD1 – transitions from lump sum deferred deposit transactions to installment loan transactions; specifies various consumer protection requirements for installment loans (payday lending);
- HB1376 – helping tenants renegotiate and mediate terms of their leasing agreements so they are able to stay in their rentals;

The first bill signed by Governor David Ige (becoming Act 1) kept unemployment trust fund payments by employers at a more reasonable level than the current law would have otherwise required. Wildberger described it as "a remarkable demonstration of cooperation" between the House and the Senate. She said Act 1 prevents unemployment contribution rates from "skyrocketing and crippling small business employers."

Hashimoto agreed, "An additional assessment would have been detrimental to businesses at a time when they are trying to recover and bring more employees back to work."

McKelvey noted the difficulty, however, in providing more relief. "We were able to fast track a bill to hold

the Unemployment Insurance ("UI") schedule rating at its present level instead of allowing it to escalate as it would've done in March. While we would've liked to roll the UI schedule back, the federal government requires us to show a good faith effort and replenishing our UI funds. As such, a move could trigger the loss of major federal support down the road."

"I was hoping we could provide some additional direct relief to Hawai'i workers," said Keith-Agaran. "The Senate did pass a modest minimum wage hike but could not move the bill forward ..."

see LEGISLATURE p.13



Rep. Troy Hashimoto conferring with Kaua'i Rep. Nadine Nakamura.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

Airport Access Road after him. Mayor Cravalho, a great friend of the Filipino community, was a towering and impactful figure in building the Maui we know today."

Other bills highlighted as important by Maui's delegation include:

- SB 512 – expanding SNAP Double-Bux benefits for more locally grown fresh food;
- SB 973, SD1, HS2 CD1 – amending the Money Transmitters Act;
- HB 817 – requiring a minimum of 10 percent of produce purchased by state departments be grown locally by 2025;
- HB 1023 HD1 SD1 CD1 – creating



Chef Gemsley Balagso
PHOTOS COURTESY GEMSLEY BALSAGSO



Chef Gemsley Balagso has trained his fine-tuned penchant for food as art to fine works of wood craftsmanship—these include truly remarkable functional pieces that are on a whole new heightened level on their own.
PHOTOS: GEMSLEY BALSAGSO



Chefs ...

from p. 3

ed on my Facebook page that I tested positive with COVID-19 and the responses were just so touching and very caring,” says Macadangdang. Thanks to the support and wishes received, Chef Macadangdang was inspired to keep going. “That gave me more ideas of how to regain strength back and stay up and positive.” With the re-opening of Joey’s Kitchen in Kā’ana-pali, Chef Macadangdang is still going strong and continues to use the positivity he received as fuel to pay it forward. “I’m still giving back and helping the community regardless of the pandemic in any way I can.”

Fellow Maui restauranteur and culinary rockstar Chef Sheldon Simeon also took the time to share his experience during the pandemic. Like Chef Macadangdang, Chef Simeon made the decision to keep his restaurant Tin Roof open from the beginning of the pandemic. “Luckily for us at Tin Roof we did not have to close our restaurant,” said Chef Simeon. Their ability to do so was made easier by their current system of operation. “Thankfully for us, we already had the right system in place where we’re all grab and go.”

The transition to operating in the pandemic, however, was not an easy trek. “I still had to lay off my staff,” says Chef Simeon. Layoffs at Tin Roof were difficult to go through with for him. “There were so many negatives in not being able to give my staff and my team jobs knowing how important that was to their livelihood.” A common occurrence in pandemic-era Hawaii, the loss of tourism hit the job status of many locals hard.

The Tin Roof team limited to a small group, Simeon, like many other business owners, had to think of ways to keep the restaurant going. “That was just me, my wife, and two of my chefs. With no tourists here, nobody coming to the islands, which was a huge part of our revenue, we had to figure out ways to continue to keep the doors open and we went basic.”

For Chef Simeon and his team, going back to basics meant putting the community first. Participating in local programs to feed those in need like Hale Kau Kau and Feed My Sheep and implementing pay-it-forward opportunities for restaurant patrons to provide meals to those who needed it, the Tin Roof team did just that. “We thought

about our community and not about how we were going to make money. What can we do that’s within our means? We fed the *kūpuna* and fed the needy.” Even now, after the recent release of his new cookbook, Chef Simeon continues to give back. “All sales off my cookbook out of Tin Roof right now are going straight to the Maui Food Bank. After the second week, we’ve already gotten \$7,000 to donate.”

After a year of challenges, Chef Simeon used the obstacles he overcame to better his outlook on his career and restaurant. Looking back, Chef Simeon saw how much he took the success of Tin Roof for granted. “Well in the beginning, we took it for granted that my restaurant was busy all the time and we had only four hours of service so just 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.” Having had to go back to phase one and relying on the community to keep the coveted Tin Roof open, Simeon has made it a point to exude gratefulness for them. “I made it a point to thank every single person that came in those early days like whoever braved their selves to get out the house and order food,” says Simeon. Tin Roof’s journey through the pandemic has been nothing short of a classroom for Chef Simeon who passes on the biggest lesson he learned. “That’s the biggest lesson is make every minute count because everything could be taken away very quickly.”

Last, but not least, Chef Gemsley Balagso shares his transition from sous chef to furniture connoisseur. Prior to the pandemic, Chef Balagso hoped the COVID-19 would be handled in a manner that would prioritize the community “thinking that we were or are safer than most places as long as the government officials quickly make a decision to shut down the state to outside travelers,” says Balagso. Looking at the aftermath, he soon found it would come to be untrue. “But it seems that we were all wrong, cases quickly spiked as well as families losing loved ones became a reality.”

The lockdown because of COVID-19 had its own effect on Balagso’s life including areas like his career and his family. “I didn’t have to report to a place of work like I did (before the pandemic). It was hard for me to see my kids not being able to go to school and socialize with people of their age and then always having to make sure they had someone to watch them or take care of them while both parents continued to work.” Faced with the

harsh realities of the pandemic for island locals, Balagso took matters into his own hands.

Taking the leap to start his own furniture business, Canefield Creations, to be able to further support his family, Balagso has been a revolutionary in fostering the newfound farming skills of the community. “I started my own business building furniture which helped make ends meet along with the later support of UI and additional government funding. I spent the time on lockdown starting a furniture building business and also making and selling over one hundred fifty custom planter boxes for our community that for some reason became farmers and food growers overnight as a result of this pandemic.” First starting off to support his

family in a treacherous time for all, the cycle of support didn’t end at the planter boxes. “Home Depot and Lowes loved someone like me, I bought their lumber and my clients bought all the soil and seeds,” Balagso says.

As shown by his entrepreneurial spirit in starting a furniture business, Balagso is quick to adapt to difficult situations. “The same as we couldn’t go to work, but we still needed money to live so starting a business for me was the best thing for me instead of waiting on UI and Stimulus Checks.” For Balagso, it’s all about doing what is needed to make things happen. “There have been all types of adaptations that needed to happen from when we could leave the house, to

see CHEFS p.13



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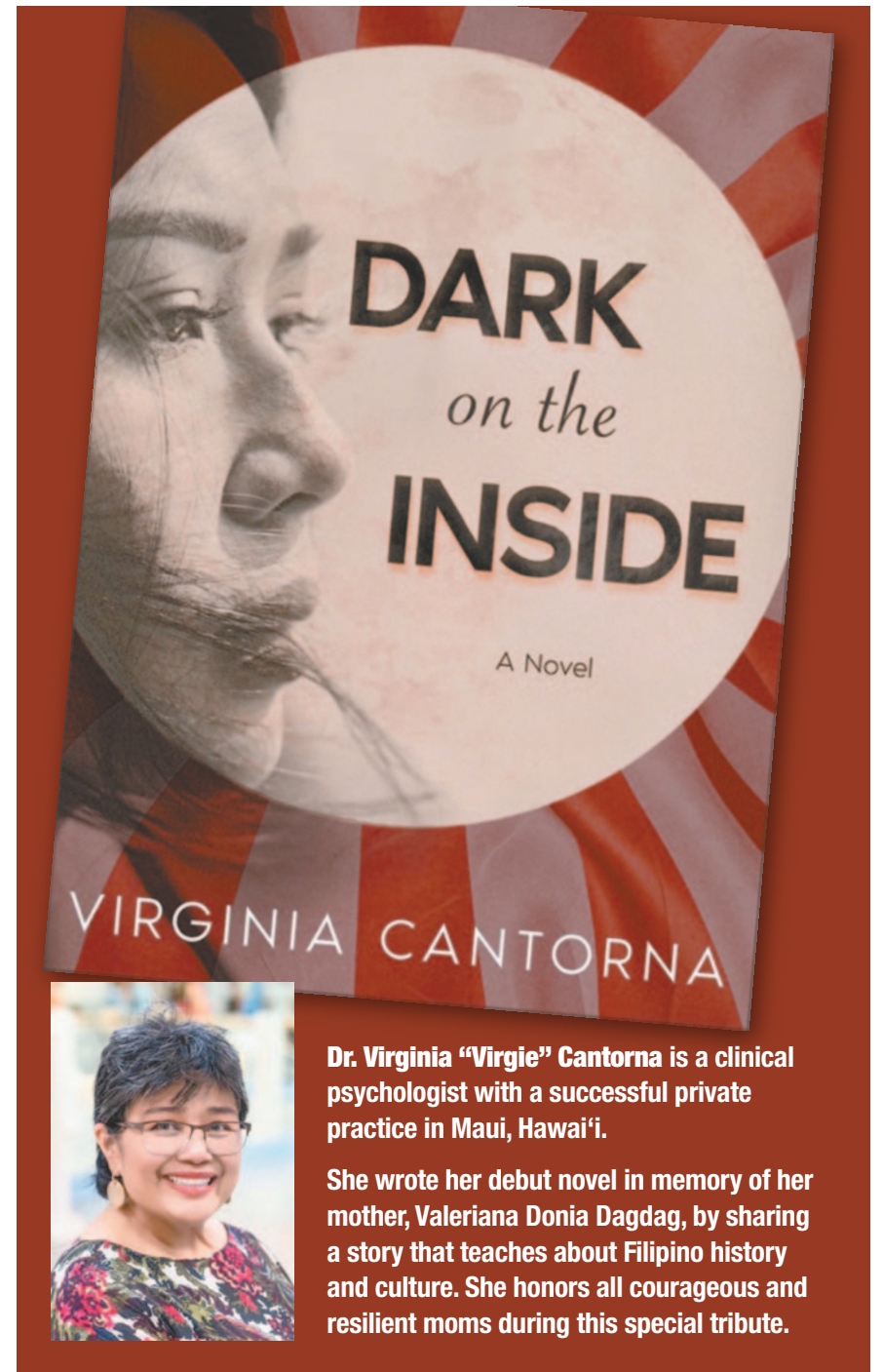


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Despite the Pandemic, High School Graduates are Optimistic

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

It has officially been more than a year since lockdown and to call these times a rollercoaster would be an understatement. The whole world shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic for several months, forcing our communities and busy individual schedules into a sort of hibernation. Since then, scientists have done much more comprehensive research. People have adopted, adapted and now consistently use COVID prevention measures. The wheels of our society are beginning to turn again, slowly returning us to a sense of normalcy.

We cannot, however, say the same for Maui's schools this year. Both public and privately educated students started their first day of school online. Virtual schooling was the safest option; too many students in a limited area would not be suitable for social distancing, masks or not.

Smaller private schools on Maui have since allowed their students to return to campus for socially distanced, in-person classes. Public schools now have an option, too: blended learning or, the more popular approach, virtual learning. Either way, both teachers and students needed to adapt and learn a completely different style of schooling. As well, the lack of being in an actual classroom, along with being cut off from people socially, affected us all in various ways. I, for one, found myself increasingly reliant on social media such as Instagram and Snapchat to keep in touch with my classmates, something I never did before.

Despite the pandemic, or maybe because of it, today's students have proven they are resilient. It seems as if the trials of schooling during COVID-19 shaped our Seniors into determined, confident and future-ready young adults. Here are the perspectives of five students from the Class of 2021 on this daunting and wacky year.

Alexis Joy Viloría, daughter of Alex and Juvy Viloría, thinks of time spent in quarantine as a blessing in disguise. Before quarantine, she was "dead set" on focusing her energies towards becoming a doctor-biology major in the pre-medical track in college. Time in quarantine, however, left her wondering if the medical field truly interested her. "I had time to think about what I really wanted. Do I want to spend years and years studying subjects I don't necessarily enjoy or do I want to spend the rest of my life, in-



Alexis Joy Viloría

cluding my education, doing what I love?" she recounts. Alexis, president and founder of the Saber Scribes journalism club at Maui High, inspires her fellow members with an unmatched zeal for writing. Combined with her other interest, natural history, Alexis is starting in a new direction this fall at Stanford University: studying for an anthropology major with a minor in journalism.

Maui High School senior **Andrew Ryan Bautista** misses spending time



Andrew Ryan Bautista

with his friend group during lunch and playing basketball with them during pre-COVID school. Although he hasn't been able to see as many of his friends due to distance learning, he describes having school online "very exciting for me." Andrew says if there was one thing he learned from online learning, it was how to work more independently. "I wasn't able to do as much for my senior project since everything had to be done with dis-

tance. I had to do a lot of things by myself and had to rely more on myself." He will be applying this hard work ethic next year in the workforce to save money before college. Andrew, son of Anna Liza Bautista, is a gifted artist but plans to go into the culinary field. Using his eye for detail, he already shows his potential through eye-catching lunches he makes at home on school days.

Jadynne Zane knew from the start college was the best fit for her af-



Jadynne Zane

ter graduating from Maui High School. She is elated to begin a new chapter of her life at the University of Southern California and the different activities and interests she will encounter there: "The experiences will be unmatched to those that I have experienced." One of those experiences will be a major in biomedical engineering, emphasizing electrical engineering on the pre-med path. As her first year of college comes closer, she feels increasingly relieved of high school burdens and more free to become her most authentic self. Nonetheless, virtual school did not make applying for colleges easy. She described the process as very intimidating and had trouble adapting to online education at first. When she felt challenged, Jadynne turned to her mom and dad, Jeremy and Darryl Zane, for support. Being able to talk about her worries and receive advice, in turn, was a massive part of her personal growth during the year.

It is safe to say no one realized how much of our lives revolved around being social until the pandemic. **Mason Bailey**, son of Will and Lani Bailey, names the restrictions on social gath-



Mason Bailey

erings as a significant impact on his senior year. Graduation ceremonies,

assemblies and social events were all denied this year to reduce the risk of infection. He mentions he misses seeing his friends at school the most. Many people might respond to this with frustration but Mason remarks, "I kinda just live with [it] and accept the fact that there isn't much I can do." His calm disposition will be a great advantage in his first year in the Army; after his last high school year, he will join with a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of wheeled vehicle mechanics. Mason admits the pandemic pushed him to choose the path he was considering but is still happy with this decision. The army will let him explore whatever career he chooses to become certified in and allow him to "embrace it and face it head-on."

Kyson Calibuso, son of Maryann and Dwayne Calibuso, says his entire



Kyson Calibuso

Junior year was his favorite high school memory. Being able to travel to California for the Maui High School band trip, plan junior prom and become closer with his schoolmates made it "the best year ever!" Then the pandemic hit, unfortunately, and the time for traveling and in-person school came to an end. He mentions initially feeling bitter about losing out on precious twelfth-grade memories. But Kyson ultimately decided holding onto that resentment wasn't healthy for anyone. Instead, he learned to let go and spend time with his friends to alleviate his vexation. "We all turn to each other for moral support and for a fun time," he explains. Kyson plans to study nursing with an emphasis on pre-med at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Although this was not his first college choice, Kyson exclaims, "I am still really ecstatic about going to UH Mānoa!" His lively disposition made him a great addition to student government at Maui High and will undoubtedly result in his success on our sister island.

Despite being denied high school rites of passage like prom, class trips and even a regular graduation ceremony, our seniors have never lost their commendable sense of optimism and resilience. Instead of feeling frustrated at their situation, they beat the odds and now thrive in this virtual setting.

Congratulations, Class of 2021! We are all so proud of your hard work this year. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish you all the best in your bright futures. ✨

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see GRADUATION p.14

Legislature ...

from p. 8

Wildberger agreed with Keith-Agaran that the House's failure to act on the minimum wage bill was a disappointment. "The House failed to raise the minimum wage, again even though the Senate managed to send over a \$12/hour wage increase. There were several different bills put forward to raise the minimum wage this year but my bill HB1201, Essential Wages for Essential Workers, would have paid \$15/hour to workers. And small businesses would have benefited from a robust tip credit."

Wildberger also noted the Legislature failed to pass any substantial criminal justice reform legislation such as the no-knock warrants and police accountability.

The Legislature also failed to legalize "responsible, adult-use cannabis which would have increased desperately-needed tax revenue, diversified our economy with high-paying Ag Jobs, and reduced costs and addressed over population at our jail simultaneously," she said.

Wildberger observed many bills were introduced to tackle the state's shortcomings "but most of them sadly stalled in committee."

Hashimoto observed the Legislature

"did not have any big policy shifts that were moved this past session—such as taxation reform, legalization of cannabis or gambling, minimum wage, or large reforms in government operations." Hashimoto specifically identified the inability to find solutions for new funding sources for both the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the lack of funding to create a John A. Burns School of Medicine cohort at Maui College as major disappointments. Keith-Agaran noted, however, that CIP funding for DHHL infrastructure will be noticeably more than in recent years, including specific allocations for Kēōkea-Waiohuli and Pūlehunui on Maui and for the Molokai water system. A DHHL proposal for licensing a casino also received no hearing in one of the two chambers.

Keith-Agaran also noted that "While the Mayor and Council's request to add a Maui County surcharge to the general excise tax did not pass, the County may have the opportunity to pass its own hotel room tax under HB862. The County will not have to lobby the legislature every year for a share of the state hotel room tax and will have more control over the use of revenues from the visitor industry for Maui Nui needs." Hashimoto said

see LEGISLATURE next page

Chefs ...

from p. 9

when I could go shopping. Or even how bills needed to be paid. My upbringing has been all about making it happen through hard work and dedication, not looking for handouts or dwelling on the current situation."

Within tough spots created by unforeseen difficulties, for Balagso, an important lesson can be taken. "Some folks need to take negative things like this and learn how to adjust and adapt in the world that we all live in now. Bills will always be there and we as the community need to find a way to live, whether it's supporting that local business or getting paid from a local employer or just getting out there." To Balagso, by making it happen you can make sure you put the well-being of yourself and others first no matter the circumstances. "Making it happen no matter what the situation will help yourself and everyone around you."

Having gone through his fair share of hardships through the pandemic, Balagso, like his two Pinoy counterparts, makes it a point to make sure others can make it happen. "Luckily enough I am still employed by a very strong community-involved property that is still supporting safe ways to give back, whether it's a highway clean up to keep our 'āina looking good or even during the lock-

down we were able to partner with our community food vendors to give a care package to 300+ households, granted those households were employees of the property, these care packages were enough to feed others that live there with them for several good meals."

All three chefs featured, though they have experienced some turbulent times because of the pandemic, have made it a point to persevere and give back. This theme has been common with them in times past as they supported the community even before the pandemic, leading "Three Chefs and a Grammy" in 2019 to fundraise for Binhi At Ani alongside Grammy winner Kalani Pe'a. From these chefs, many can take moral incentive to do good for others no matter the circumstances, good times or not, pandemic or no pandemic. The unwavering spirits that the chefs possess is representative of the community's willingness to keep going. ✨

Alexis Joy Vilorio, a Maui High School Senior, is the founder and President of the SaberScribes journalism club and Vice President of the Silversword Chapter of the National Honor Society. Alexis is a member of HOSA-Future Health Professionals as the Secondary Representative of the Hawai'i HOSA State Council. She will be attending Stanford University in the Fall to major in Anthropology. Alexis is the daughter of Alex and Juvy Vilorio.



Iti Salun-At Yo | Cont'd from p.6



Jeny Bissell, R.N. is flanked by Drs. Errol Buntuyan and Arlene Ricalde. PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

quarantine when traveling between islands. This is a welcome relief for the painstaking process of required COVID testing both pre and post interisland travel when landing on Maui. If this program is a success, it is hoped to expand to transpacific and worldwide travelers.

The third reason to get vaccinated is for Hawai'i to achieve herd immunity. According to the latest estimates, we need 70–85 percent of our population vaccinated to be considered resistant to the spread of further COVID infection in our community. Once this goal is reached, we can be one step closer to where life used to be. With herd immunity, mask requirements and social distancing will be lifted. We can finally be out of this pandemic. We hope to reach herd immunity by early July and we must encourage our hesitant friends and family to get vaccinated in order to achieve this goal.

With the reduction in vaccination rates due to hesitancy, we will have a long way to get to herd immunity.

The longer the delay in getting vaccinated, the greater chances that a more contagious and deadly COVID variant will infiltrate our local community. We cannot risk the inundation of our Maui healthcare system with yet another wave of infection and illness. Now is the time to band together in unity and encourage others to get vaccinated. This is the only way to protect ourselves and each other from the ravages of this deadly and debilitating COVID disease. ✨

Errol Buntuyan, M.D. is a Family Medicine Practitioner and the Physician in Charge of Maui Primary Care at Kaiser Permanente. Born in Quezon City and raised in Southern California, he has been practicing medicine on Maui since 2007. Dr. Buntuyan promotes whole food, plant-based nutrition, regular physical activity, stress mindfulness and sleep hygiene as keys to optimum health and wellness. He enjoys cooking, playing tennis and travel.



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Legislature ...

from p. 13

“Tourism management has been a buzz word and is a priority of the Legislature through reforms at the Hawai’i Tourism Authority and also allowing the counties to enact their own transient accommodations tax surcharge up to 3 percent to allow for better tourism management.”

But McKelvey argues HB 862 was a major disappointment. “While this bill would have created an equitable reallocation of the Transient Accommodations Tax (“TAT”), given the Governor’s action of sweeping these funds into the state coffers by executive order and strengthening oversight over the Hawai’i Tourism Authority (“HTA”) by using federal funds, down the road when we recover from COVID this will be extremely detri-

mental to Maui because this act is in perpetuity. By allowing the counties to add on a surcharge instead of being given a portion of the TAT to help offset the impact, Maui will be put at a disadvantage to O’ahu which has other sources of economic industry besides tourism if they choose not to adopt the surcharge, as well other neighbor island counties could now be pitted against each other. The issue of forum shopping insofar as running the room revenue through corporate offices in a county like O’ahu, which has not adopted the surcharge. Furthermore, the service charge means that Maui will only get \$8 million if visitors numbers reach the levels in 2019 instead of the \$23 million that was pre-allocated under the cap, which was also problematic insofar as it was only a percentage of the \$200 million and TAT revenue that Maui produces annually. I am confident though that the



Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran and Rep. Troy Hashimoto.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

Legislature will revisit these issues next session and come up with a more equitable plan for revenue sharing.”

Wildberger tends to agree with her fellow House member: “HB862 was both a success and a disappointment. It [reins] in the Hawai’i Tourism Authority budget in an attempt to better manage spending on tourism marketing but it also slashes the amount of Transient Accommodations Tax that Maui County receives by two thirds from \$22 million to \$8.5 million and only if the County decides to surcharge 3 percent on top of the 10.25 percent the State already takes and will now keep.”

“Replacing tourism is not something that will happen overnight,” McKelvey opined “and despite some good efforts because of the severe deficit crisis caused by COVID the Legislature wasn’t able to do much to try to be more aggressive with diversification as soon as possible. That being said, measures to help expand and increase the multiplier effect of visitors in businesses that are not directly associated with the visitor industry but they provide a large stream of commerce to them was expanded through several measures and by increase in support of value added products, which is the largest sector of these types of businesses.”

“An increase to the \$5 car rental surcharge was also passed—\$0.50 per year until 2027—to help fund projects such as the Lahaina Bypass, Pu’unē Avenue Expansion, and the Pā’ia Bypass,” Hashimoto commented. McKelvey agreed with Hashimoto “These monies will allow us to finally get both the Lahaina bypass extension to Kā’anapali rolling as well as other needed infrastructure for transportation improvements to offset the impact that the visitors will have, ensuring the quality of life for our residence and a better experience for visitors.” According to Keith-Agaran, the increase “will result in our visitors sharing more directly in the costs for repair, maintenance and construction of our highway system.”

McKelvey believes federal funds will help to diversify Hawai’i’s economy. “I am confident that with the large infusion of federal monies for broadband expansion as well as some of the essential capital improvement projects we can continue to bolster technology businesses and other businesses that do not require people to leave Hawai’i in order to create and expand on huge market opportunities

in the mainland and across the globe.”

Despite the disappointments, some legislators noted a renewed team effort in legislating. “I think the measures that will have the most profound impact on people and will serve the greatest goods were measures that were introduced by multitude of lawmakers,” said McKelvey. “These measures not only reflect the diversity of Maui legislators and their colleagues in trying to tackle these issues but also represents the team first approach in helping to evolve these pieces of legislation addressing concerns or shortcomings and producing superior laws that will hopefully be enacted by the Governor.”

So, it’s now up to the Governor, explains Keith-Agaran. “The Governor will now have a month or so to review the bills sent to his desk, including reorganizing the Office of Planning, reforming the Hawai’i Tourism Authority and providing the Counties with taxing authority in addition to property taxes, and pushing his agencies towards using more fuel-efficient vehicles, including electric cars, in state fleets. He also will be reviewing bills allocating funds for personal protective equipment and other resources to state agencies and our hospitals for continuing the health care response to the pandemic.”

In the meantime, Wildberger is encouraging everyone to vaccinate: “I want to encourage everyone to get their COVID-19 vaccine. It is safe and we won’t be able to get past this crisis unless everyone gets the vaccine. So do it for your kids so we can get back to school and back to work!”

Next year is an election year and all of Maui’s legislative seats will be up for election due to reapportionment. In 2022, the voters will decide which legislators will, in 2023, get back to work at the Legislature. ✨

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 start-up and consultation, nonprofit 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.

Graduation ...

from p. 12

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 **Brooklyn Jones**, a Junior at Maui High School. She is an assistant editor in her school’s journalism program,



Saber Scribes, and is a member of the Girls Can STEM Club as well. Brooklyn is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, specializing in graphic design. In her free time, she swims for Hawai’i Swimming Club, bakes and likes to go to the beach. She is the daughter of Melissa Ligot Jones and Darren Jones.

Graduation Dates for Maui’s High Schools

Please check with the school for any details and updates.

Baldwin High School – May 21, War Memorial Stadium: In-person with virtual ceremony. 290 participating seniors.

Hana High & Elementary – May 22, School campus: In-person ceremony, drive-up/park, with two family members per graduate; parade to follow. 28 participating seniors.

Kamehameha Schools – May 29 (tentative).

King Kekaulike High School – May 20, School Stadium: In-person with limited guests and vehicles. 220 participating seniors.

Lahainaluna High School – May 23, School Stadium: In-person, more details to be announced. 216 participating seniors.

Lanai High & Elementary – May 22, Palawai Field: Details to be announced. 40 participating seniors.

Maui High School – May 22, War Memorial Stadium: In-person with graduates and essential staff only inside stadium; limited guests and vehicles outside. 430 participating seniors.

Maui Preparatory Academy – May 28, 6 p.m.

Molokai High – May 22, School football field: Details to be announced. 66 participating seniors.

Seabury Hall – May 29, 10:30 a.m.

St. Anthony School – May 28, 5 p.m.

Ti Biag ken Pammati
“Life and Faith”



Fr. Abaya.
PHOTO: DARLENE CACHOLA

On March 16, The Most Reverend Clarence Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu, Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai‘i, led a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace on March 16, 2021 to begin a year-long celebration through April 2022.

Fr. Pascual Abaya, Rector and Pastor of the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, is from the Philippines from Candon City, Ilocos Sur. He’s been ordained for twenty five years and has served in many ministries and parishes in the Philippines before coming to Hawai‘i. He served as Parochial Vicar, Parish Administrator, Pastor and Director of Vocations. It was inspiring for me to join in this Mass celebration on live stream, to listen and to see the many priests, deacons, religious, of Filipino ancestry. Fr. Pascual Abaya delivered an inspiring homily for this celebration.

With his permission, Fr. Abaya’s homily is reprinted here.

Before anything else, I would like to make a disclaimer that I am not a historian. I will do my best to present some historical information and if ever, correct me if I am wrong.

Your Excellency, The Most Reverend Clarence Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu of the State of Hawai‘i, Reverend Monsignori, Brother-Priests, Reverend Deacons, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and the People of God who are here inside the Cathedral Basilica and those who are joining us through our live feed, Mabuhay!

Today, we are gathered here at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace to remember a story of God’s pure grace or Amazing Grace, if you will, that is unearned, unmerited, undeserved and gifted, to the fabled ‘Isles of the West’ in ‘The Land of the Morning,’ our Lupang Hinirang known as the Philippines.

This story of God’s Grace started on the 16th day of March 1521 when explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his Spanish fleet accidentally came up on the island of Cebu while on expedition in search of resources in the Moluccas. Only two weeks thereafter on the 31st Day of March 1521, the chaplain of the expedition, Father Pedro de Valderama, celebrated the first Mass on the island of Cebu and on April 14, 1521, he baptized on the same island King Rajah Humabon and Queen



Fr. Abaya delivering the Homily.
PHOTO: DAN ABINA, DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HONOLULU

Gifted to Give—500
Years of Christianity
in the Philippines

Deacon Patrick Constantino

Hara Humamay including eight hundred of their subjects. Magellan gave as a gift to the wife the image of the Holy Child, known as Santo Niño. Thus, the story of God’s amazing grace has started; the first seed of God’s Kingdom sown on La Perla del Mar Oriente—the Philippines.

In view of God’s amazing grace happening in history and in mystery at a definite time and space, it is only fitting and proper that we celebrate today in joy and thanksgiving resonating with Psalmist’s song:

*This is the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 115, 22–24).*

In remembrance of that story of grace, I would like us to consider two points: (1) to scan swiftly our historical past to remember in thanksgiving, then briefly to spend some time in our living present to reflect in faith; and (2) and finally focus on our vision of the future to hope for. In other words, let’s look back in gratitude; look within in faith; and look ahead in hope at this marvelous gift of God. A word on each point.

1) The Past and the Present
we remember in Gratitude
and Faith!

For the seed of God’s kingdom, sown in the Philippines in 1521, to take root, to flower and to bear fruit, it was not till fifty plus years later for this to happen gradually when conquistador Miguel López de Legaspi and Fray Andrada, were zealous to implement Spain’s policy of colonization and Christianization by means of the sword and the cross, who arrived via Mexico in the Philippines in 1575. The next three hundred plus years saw the fruition of God’s Kingdom in the Philippines with mixed and ambiguous results in terms of what his-

torians and theologians call today a baroque church, that is: medieval in shape and form, Castilian in organization and administration, and monastic in pastorals and theology.

The collapse of Spain’s power and force in 1896 placed in jeopardy God’s Kingdom of Grace. It was at this moment of crisis, when a new set of missionaries from the United States of America and Europe came to the rescue with no other power than that of God’s Word and the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ turning in effect the situation of crisis into an opportunity of renewal for the Church in the Philippines.

Since the 1900s up to the present, the Church of the Philippines has been favored with (1) two canonized

Saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila and San Pedro Calungsod of Cebu, (2) thousands of dedicated priests, religious and diocesan; (3) hundreds of Archbishops and Bishops; (4) eight Cardinals, (5) thousands of religious men and women of consecrated life, (6) thousands of lay missionaries and organizations, and (6) last but not the least, a large number of Catholic faithful comprising eighty percent of the total population, in fact the third largest number of Catholics in the world after Mexico and Brazil.

Meanwhile, in the process of growth and maturity, the Church in the Philippines came to discover her missionary dimension that defines her essence and existence, her nature and substance. Not only is it the gifted or receiving church but it has become the giving or sending church. Go to any diocese from Alaska to Argentina, from New York to Japan, and most of the dioceses in countries in between, the chances are that you’ll find a Filipino priest and/or Religious Sister or Brother ministering to the people of God there.

A concrete case in point is the presence of Filipino priests in the Diocese of Honolulu; a presence that dates back as early as 1917 when Fr. Ignacio Cordero from Nueva Segovia arrived in Hawai‘i to minister briefly to the spiritual needs of thousands of migrant Filipino workers who were mostly Ilocanos. In 1949, Msgr. Os-mundo Calip, also from Nueva Segovia, came to Hawai‘i to do mission work here. One outstanding result of Msgr. Calip’s Hawai‘i mission was the creation of Filipino Catholic Clubs known as FCC all over the islands to minister to the spiritual, cultural, and educational needs of Filipino workers. FCC are still active in most parishes of the diocese to this date.

In the late 1980s, the breakthrough came with the creation of the Filipino Ministry under the Office for
see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI next page



Bishop Clarence
“Larry” Silva.
PHOTO: DAN ABINA,
DIOCESAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH OF
HONOLULU



Fr. Jaime Jose and Fr. Eric Castro, former pastors of St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

PHOTO: DAN ABINA-DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HONOLULU

Ethnic Ministries with the Diocesan Chancellor, a Maryknoll sister, a Filipina from Tagudin, Ilocos Sur as Director. Through then Archbishop, now retired Cardinal Quevedo of Nueva Segovia, Bishop Francis DiLorenzo and Sr. Grace Dorothy Lim, the Filipino Ministry in the Diocese of Honolulu was formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Shortly thereafter, Archbishop Quevedo sent the first batch of Filipino missionaries from Nueva Segovia.

Initially, the Nueva Segovia missionaries in Hawai'i ministered only to Filipinos as 'itinerant apostles' going around to parishes, if and when welcomed by resident pastors, giving retreats, catechesis, prayer services, celebrating the sacraments among Filipinos. Because of the need for priests to administrative services to parishes, these 'itinerant missionaries' were eventually assigned to parishes as administrators, parochial vicars and even as pastors, if incardinated to the Diocese, in effect ministering to all Catholics—even to non-Filipinos.

This presence of the Filipino Clergy and Religious in the Diocese of Hawai'i is a welcome development pastorally and theologically: pastorally, for the obvious and practical reason of necessity; theologically, because the Church is missionary by nature and essence. She is sent, 'missioned,' if you will, by Christ, the Lord Himself, to evangelize the whole world, helping out to build the Kingdom of God on earth. It is a welcome thought, too, as we are celebrating today the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines in the spirit of the celebration's theme: GIFTED TO GIVE. Yes, indeed, my sisters and brothers in Christ, we are celebrating our GIFTEDNESS from God in order to GIVE that GIFT OF FAITH to the world, specially to the Diocese of Honolulu. Bishop Broderick Pabillo, the current Administrator of the Archdiocese of Manila, shared this inspiring statement at the opening of the 500th Year Celebration of Christianity in the Philippines: 'Filipino migrants and missionaries also strengthen the Church in most of the two hundred countries all over the world where they are found. This is something to celebrate. The Philippines, gifted with the faith has, in turn, gift-

ed the universal Church in many ways. On the 500th year of its Christianization, we join the Philippine Church and our fellow Filipinos in this joyful and grateful remembrance of God's generous gift of faith.'

My dear friends, as, indeed, the Kingdom of God in the Philippines, whose seed was sown in 1521, has taken root to grow, to bloom, to flower and to bear fruit over 500 years through God's goodness and grace, it is understandable that the Church in the Philippines feels happy



The priests gather at Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in downtown Honolulu.

PHOTO: DAN ABINA-DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HONOLULU

that she has carried out our Lord, Jesus Christ's missionary mandate to help in building up God's Kingdom in the world with as much fidelity as she could muster and with as much success as with God's grace the church in the Philippines could accomplish. In view of this, it is only fitting and proper that the theme of the 5th Centennial of Christianity in the Philippines is: GIFTED TO GIVE echoing the words of the Gospel: 'What you received as a gift, give as a gift!' (Mt 10:8) May the memory of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines be a blessing to us in 2021 and beyond!

2) The Future we can Believe in and Hope for!

After all is said and done, what more is there for the Church of the Philippines to do going forward in 2021 and beyond? A lot, my dear friends; quite a lot, indeed; for the simple reason that the Kingdom of God on earth has yet to reach its fullness, which is, in the words of the



At Cathedral Basilica of our Lady of Peace.

PHOTO: DAN ABINA-DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HONOLULU

preface of the Feast of Christ the King: The Kingdom of Love and Peace, of Truth and Life, of Holiness and Grace! Of course, the Kingdom of God, as biblical theologians assure us that this kingdom has already started in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ on earth; however, its fullness is yet to be fulfilled in God's own time and space. The Kingdom of God on earth lives out the healthy tension of 'the already' and 'the not yet.'

We are amazed at how the Church in the Philippines has struggled to live out this tension throughout her life and ministry from 1521 to 2021 following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself totally in the service of the 'already-present' (Mt 12:28; Lk 11:20; 17:21) and the 'not yet-future' (Mt 8:11) of the divine reign. In other words, through Jesus Christ's ministry of preaching and teaching; specially, that of doing miracles (Mt 4:23; 9:35) while here on earth, God's final reign (or Kingdom), is already operational and operative in the here and now. His parables, in particular, indicate that the future Kingdom God at the end of time is a reality that begins to take shape and form in the here and now of the present.

And that, my friends, dearly beloved in Christ, is the challenge our celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines invites and urges us to embrace and take-up, especially in a world so divided and troubled. What is there for us to do moving forward in 2021 and beyond? A sincere suggestion, if I may, as one pastor serving in this Diocese of the Aloha State: May we continue believing in our Lord's proclamation that 'the Kingdom of God is near at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel!' In other words, let's have that Faith that does the Gospel values of God's Kingdom and works with our best efforts for these values of 'truth and life ... of holiness and grace ... of justice, love and peace.' (Preface of Christ, the King of the Universe). In so doing, we shall be doing part in making God's Kingdom on earth a reality that is operative and operational.

Let us then give this challenge our best efforts with utter seriousness and join our beloved Bishop Larry with his

Episcopal Motto, Witness to Jesus, as we continue to embark our mission here in the Diocese of Honolulu, Stewards of the Gospel. The cause to continue building it up is God's, for it is through Him are the power and the glory. 'Not to us, O Lord,' sings the Psalmist: 'not to us, O Lord, but to your name we give glory' (Ps 115:1).

May the good Lord Jesus Christ who began the work of building up God's Kingdom on earth, continue it through us and bring it to fulfillment for us.

Lastly, we commend ourselves residing in these beautiful Islands of Hawai'i and those living in El Pueblo Amante de Maria, the Philippines, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Lady of Peace to feed us with her inspiration, to lead us with her direction, and to speed us with her intercession in our mission of building up God's Kingdom on earth.

Amen.

Let us be inspired by this celebration and continue to be for one another, in spite of this pandemic, nothing can stop us. For we are Gifted to Give. God will provide us the necessary gifts we need!

God Is Good? All The Time!
All The Time! God Is Good!
Keep The Faith? Share The Love!
Share The Love! Keep The Faith!
Jesus, I trust in You! Amen! ✨

On June 18, 1987, **Patrick Constantino** was ordained as the first Deacon of Filipino ancestry for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i. For twenty-two years, he served as Administrator at Holy Rosary Church in Pā'ia, St. Rita Church in Ha'ikū and St. Gabriel Church in Ke'ānae. Constantino is presently assigned to St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui's first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry.

Constantino has served as a Deacon for thirty-three years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for fifty-nine years.



Community... In Action



Arnel Alvarez, Jan Paa, Melen Agcoliol, Dr. Errol Buntuyan, Dr. Arlene Ricalde, Dr. Maria Kriekenbeek and Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at the Bakuna at Binhi at Ani—Time for the Shots.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



COMMUNITY...
IN ACTION

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

BINHİ AT ANİ

Although the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center remains closed for events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain programs and projects are ongoing.
Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center
Binhi at Ani continues hosting free vaccination clinics with two more scheduled in the next few weeks.
Time for the Shots II—will be administered by the University of Hawai’i Maui College on Saturday, May 29, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary to

receive the Moderna vaccine. You may, however, register for an appointment via the QR code in the attached flyer (see bottom of page 18) or through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5AB2DA3FEC07-binhi>.
Time for the Shots III—will be administered by the University of Hawai’i Maui College on Saturday, June 26, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary to receive the Moderna vaccine.
Two hundred individuals received the Johnson & Johnson vaccination during the initial *Bakuna* at Binhi at Ani Filipino

Community Center on March 18. Another sixty registered at Binhi at Ani on March 29 for the Moderna vaccine at War Memorial gymnasium. One hundred Veterans and their families were vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine on April 24 while 77 individuals were vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine on May 1.
Stay tuned to Binhi at Ani’s Facebook page for more updates on the *Bakuna* at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center program.

#BayanihanFeedingProgram

As of press time, this new program which delivers a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui, has served 2,732 plates.
The program does need additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8> or call Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhi-atani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe’e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

Nominations and Elections

Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is seeking nominations for the Board of Directors. Current vacancies include Vice President, Auditor, and five Directors (four will be elected to two-year terms and one will be elected to a one-year term). If you are interested, please submit your name to Melen Agcolicol and she will forward you a Nomination and Consent form, due by May 30. The term begins July 1, 2021 and elections will be held June 20. Board meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month. Nominees with two or more of the following skill sets are sought: building maintenance and renovations; cultural; education; event planning; event set-up; finance/accounting; food service; fund-raising; grant writing; report writing; and social media.

Scholarship Awards

The deadline for the Scholarship program is officially closed and independent judges have begun the process of evaluating the applications. Binhi at Ani expects to award at least fifteen \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating high school students
see COMMUNITY IN ACTION next page



Coordinator Lennel Alvarez gives some last-minute instructions to the volunteers.
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Tournament Co-Chair Alfredo Evangelista rings the bell at the 10th hole at The Dunes at Maui Lani.
PHOTO: BILL RUIDAS



Atty. Ben Acob rings the bell while playing a practice round with Bill Ruidas, Alfredo Evangelista and Joselito Yuzon.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Fr. Nini, Fr. Ortega, Fr.Tolentino, Deacon Constantino, Fr. McCoy and Fr. Nadooparambi pose after celebrating the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

PHOTO: NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

from Maui, thanks to the anticipated success of the inaugural Scholarship Golf Tournament and Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Partners: In Memory of Rev. Walter T. Baloalao, Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i, Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran, Kula and Hoku, Susie McGraff, McDonalds of Maui, Maui Island Cozy Dental, and the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation, which will award \$2,000 to the top-rated scholar.

Scholarship Golf Tournament

The inaugural Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is set to tee off on Sunday, May 30 at The Dunes at Maui Lani.

Mahalo to Platinum Sponsors: Interna-

tional Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186; Laborers Union Local 368; Maui Fil-Am Golf Club; and Maui Wealth Management.

Mahalo also to Gold Sponsors: Applied Engineering, LLC; B. Sales Trucking & Excavation LLC; Bagoyo Development Group LLC; Ruben Blando; C&N Electric; Copy Services; Four Sisters Bakery; Hawaiian Financial Federal Credit Union; International Roofing & Building Const. Inc.; Island Honda; Johnstone Supply; Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company; Pyramid Insurance; and W.G. Construction.

Special Sponsors include Friends of

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Jim Falk's Valley Isle Motors, Mayor Michael Victorino and Pepsi.

Mahalo to all the other players and donors too!

LAHAINA FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB

On April 23, Fr. Robert Nini of Maria Lanakila Church, Fr. Oliver Ortega from St. Ann, Fr. Michael Tolentino of St. Joseph, Deacon Patrick Constantino of St. Joseph, Fr. Jose McCoy from Holy Rosary and Fr. Kuriakose Nadooparambil of Maria Lanakila Church con-celebrated a service at Maria Lanakila Church coordinated by

the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines.

On May 9, the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club held a Flores de Mayo service at Maria Lanakila Church in honor of the Virgin Mary.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council thanks all who purchased the 500 Uncle Louie's Portuguese sausage fundraiser tickets. The Council plans another fundraiser in the summer. Contact Emi Cortez at 373-6371 or Marilyn Oura at 280-2057 for more information.



BINHI AT ANI
780 ONEHEE AVE.
KAHULUI, HI 96732

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

If you or someone you know would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) come to Binhi At Ani to get vaccinated! Let's keep our community safe, one shot at a time!

TIME FOR THE SHOTS II

May 29, 2021, Saturday
8:00am-12:00pm

RSVP AT [HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0D44A5AB2DA3FEC07-BINHII](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5AB2DA3FEC07-BINHII)

Scan the QR Code to sign up!
WALK-INS are welcomed



PRE-REGISTRATION is encouraged



After the Flores de Mayo service.

PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD

Be sure to get your COVID-19 vaccine! Time for the Shots II will be administered by the University of Hawai'i Maui College Nursing Program on Saturday, May 29, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary to receive the Moderna vaccine. You may, however, register for an appointment via the QR code in the attached flyer (left) or through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5AB2DA3FEC07-binhi>.

IMAGE: LENNEL JOY ALVAREZ



Farmers’ Markets and Swap Meets

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

One of the best shopping experiences is going to a Farmers’ Market, especially when buying fresh fruit, vegetables and produce. Buy local and buy fresh. It is also a great opportunity for you to meet local farmers and artisans and get to know Maui people more.

For this month’s Kwento-Kwentuhan, let’s talk about some of the popular Farmers’ Markets on Maui. I will also feature some of the new markets below.

Maui Swap Meet. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the most recommended place to go was the Maui Swap Meet, sometimes referred to as the Kahului Swap Meet. Its central location at the UH Maui College campus made it easy to visit. Unfortunately, the famous Maui Swap Meet at the UH Maui College area is still closed due to COVID-19. The good news: they announced their re-opening date just before I published my book—and the reopening date is June 12, 2021.

In the meantime, a new **Kahului Swap Meet** happens at the Maui Market Place parking lot on Dairy Road, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., no charge, with temperature checks and hand sanitizers provided. Masks are required and stores are arranged for proper social distancing. There are not as many vendors as the former Kahului Swap Meet but participation is evolving.

With that said, here are a few of the open Farmers’ Markets. Keep in mind masks are required when you go to these markets:

Upcountry Farmers’ Market. This is one of the oldest and most popular farmers’ markets on Maui. It is located at Kula Malu Town Center next to Longs Drugs in Pukalani. It is open on Saturdays, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Enjoy a beautiful early morning Upcountry with local produce from a variety of farms and locally made products. Phone: (808) 283-3257.

Nāpili Farmers’ Market. This is a popular and well-loved farmers market on the Westside. It is located at 4900 Honoapiʻilani Hwy. (corner of Honoapiʻilani Hwy. and Nāpilihau St. in Lahaina). Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to noon. Fresh Maui produce; local organically managed produce and other local products such as honey, fresh juices, kombucha and more. Vegan friendly. Phone: (808) 663-5060.

Maui Fresh Farmers’ Market. Located at Queen Kaʻahumanu Center at the Center Court. Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to noon. They have local farm produce, gourmet food, plants and flowers. Phone: (808) 298-4289.

Farmers’ Market Kīhei. Locat-

ed on N. Kīhei Road next to the ABC Store, Ululani Shave Ice and Sugar Beach Bake Shop. Open Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It’s a locally owned fruit and vegetable stand with fresh baked goods, dips and salsas. They also offer açai bowls, breakfast bagels and smoothies.

Kumu Farms. Known for their delicious GMO-free papayas, Kumu Farms is located at the entrance of Maui Tropical Plantation. Although the Maui Tropical Plantation closed during the pandemic, Kumu Farms remains open. They also do Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes and they ship gift boxes of papaya and pineapple to the mainland. Open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: (808) 244-4800.

Laʻakea Village. This is a unique farmers’ market run by the non-profit organization with the same name. Laʻakea Village empowers people of all abilities to live, work, learn, play and thrive together to live their greatest potential. Located at 639 Baldwin Ave. in Pāʻia, open Monday to Friday, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone: (808) 579-8398.

New and relatively new farmers’ markets on Maui:

Farmers’ Market at Lahaina Jodo Mission. This is a new farmers’ market. They had a very successful opening and it is thriving. Open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Farmers’ Market at Oskie Rice Arena in Kula. Open Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They also have a sister Farmers’ Market every Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at **Poʻokela Church** (Olinda Road, just above Makawao Town).

Wailea Village Farmers’ Market. Wailea Village launched a weekly farmers’ market in its courtyard. It is open from 8 a.m. to noon every Tuesday. This is in addition to their once-a-month **Wailea Sunset Market** that happens every first Thursday of the month.

Crafters and Farmers’ Market in Kīhei. Located in the rear parking lot at Kukui mall, open from 8 a.m. to noon. A variety of vendors—worth checking out.

Wailuku Farms Fresh Fruit and Vegetables are being sold in front of Wailuku Coffee Company, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday. This is a one-man market but I decided to include this here as the farmer, Erin Graves, has good choices of fresh fruit and vegetables harvested from his Wailuku Farm.

There you go my friends. I hope this list is helpful to you in your shopping. I hope you support local



Fresh vegetables and fruits can be found at Farmers’ Markets throughout Maui.
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE



PHOTO: LENA CASTLE

farmers by going to one or many of these Farmers’ Markets on Maui. Many of the vendors on these markets are also Filipino and it is always good to support our kababayan as well. Maraming salamat po! ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawaiʻi. 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 Rainbows; 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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AARP is working to protect Americans 50+ by making sure you have the latest information you need about the COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution plans in Hawai'i.

Go to **HawaiiCOVID19.com** to learn more about vaccinations in Hawai'i and to make an appointment to get vaccinated. A language dropdown lets you access the site in English or Tagalog.

Kupuna without Internet access can call **2-1-1** for information and to make an appointment by phone.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine availability and distribution at aarp.org/HIvaccine.

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