



Three council members
Giving their views on leadership?

See below



Giving care to those you love
A noble yet difficult task

See below



Another writer who served

Will Espero brings you "Passion in Paradise."

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FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

December 2021 • Vol 5 No 12 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

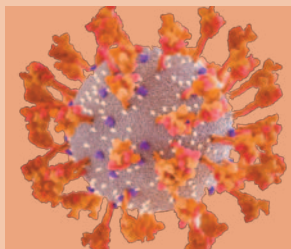
inside



Editor admonishes:
We should count our blessings
p4



Memories to be made at
your school dance.
p14



Iti Salun At Yo queries
what the new normal will
be with omicron variant.
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Portrait of a Sole Caregiver

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LUCY PEROS AND 'OHANA | Story begins on page 2



Being a sole caregiver is not an easy task, but we will do what we must for those that we love so dearly. Mom is shown here at her 101st birthday with the family.

PHOTO COURTESY LUCY PEROS

Gabe Johnson, Tasha Kama & Mike Molina

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2022, Leadership for the State and Maui County will be at the forefront with elections for Governor, Maui Mayor, Council, and due to reapportionment, all State Senators and State Representatives. The primary election will be held on August 13, 2022 with the General Election on November 8, 2022, and it's not too early to start thinking about the type of State and County leaders needed. Our first series focused on potential gubernatorial candidates. We now shift our focus to our County's elected leaders, who were simultaneously sent identical questions with the same response date. Last month, we focused on Mayor Michael Victorino and we now focus on the current members of the Maui County Council. This month we begin with Councilmembers Gabe Johnson, Tasha Kama and Michael Molina; in January our focus will be on Councilmembers Tamara Paltin, Shane Sinenci and Yuki Lei Sugimura. Councilmember Kelly King, Council Chair Alice Lee, and Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez did not timely respond.



The Fifth in a Series.

Gabe Johnson



1. IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS.

I was born in 1973 in Miami, Florida to a Puerto Rican father and a half Okinawan

mother and later raised by my mother and full-blooded Okinawan grandmother in Cleveland, Ohio. I attended Cleveland Central Catholic High School and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Kent State University. I moved to Hawai'i 16 years ago to teach at Lahaina intermediate. Soon after I made Lāna'i my home and have worked in the service industry, conservation, and later as a farmer.

2. IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US: A) WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR MAUI? B) WHAT IS RIGHT WITH MAUI? C) WHAT IS WRONG WITH MAUI?

My vision for Maui is inclu-

see LEADERSHIP p.3

FREE



Mom opens a thermos during her lunch break. She worked for Maui Land & Pineapple Co.
 PHOTO COURTESY

Health for All, Hunger for None

Bayer's vision is Health for All, Hunger for None. That's why we're passionate about helping farmers raise their crops more successfully and sustainably. It's also why we love encouraging others to learn how they can grow and enjoy their own fresh veggies, too – from supporting school gardens and educational programs like Veggie U Hawai'i, to offering fun gardening tips for your home. We invite you to check out Stacie's Garden and other free growing tips at hawaii.bayer.us.

@BayerHawaii

Science for a *better* life

Caregiver ... from p. 1

Caregiving can be a tough job! According to statistics in the United States, 43.5 million caregivers are currently helping their loved ones. I was one of those statistics until

my Mom, transitioned to her heavenly reward last September 8, 2021. I was her sole caregiver for a whole year. She was bed-ridden. I took care of her in my house with the assistance of Hospice Maui Staff.
 Mom was a very independent woman. She lived in her own house in
 see CAREGIVER p.6



Mom posed for this picture at the tender age of 17 years old.



PHOTO ABOVE: Lānaʻi is dotted with pine trees, one of the remarkable things that make the island a truly beautiful and unique place to live. Johnson is shown here at Lānaʻi ranch.

PHOTO LEFT: “I made Lānaʻi my home and have worked in the service industry, conservation and later as a farmer.” Johnson shows some of the produce from his Lānaʻi farm.

PHOTOS COURTESY GABE JOHNSON

Leadership ...

from p. 1

sivity. The more the people of Hawaiʻi and Maui County come together and share their interests, concerns, and passions, the better. My vision is to end the large gap between the haves and the have nots and create opportunities for our youth and upcoming generations, while at the same time tackling the issues in front of us. In a rich and diverse community such as Maui County we have more than

enough resources to build a resilient community that works for everyone. Presently our political will within the Maui County Council is a shining star of morality and thoughtful legislation. We focus on the wellbeing of our community members. That is how it should be. We are not immune to social ills and presently our system is set up for a winner take all economy and I am working hard for equality and economic justice.

3. IN 125 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MAUI’S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

I live on Lānaʻi. As many of your readers know, there is a large Filipino community made up of very diverse people. My roommate is Visayan, and many of my friends are Ilocano. Prior to COVID our Saturday market in Dole Park was a great meeting place and a mixture of cultures. I could eat pansit, blood meat, and all types of authentic

Filipino food. Lānaʻi has had a long history of Filipino workers who toiled the pineapple fields. Today the legendary union strike of 1950 adds to the rich history of Lānaʻi. Our place names have a story to tell about the plantation days and our history books include many Filipino leaders.

see LEADERSHIP next page



Photo left: Gabe Johnson and his daughter Momo.

Photo below: Gabe is shown here at Lānaʻihale.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GABE JOHNSON



Celebrate the Holidays Safely!

TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

COVID-19 numbers have been slowly rising for Maui County and the new Omicron variant has been discovered in Hawaii. While much still needs to be learned about this new variant, what is known is that it is potentially more transmissible than other variants. The best protection against the virus remains the COVID-19 vaccine for all eligible individuals five years of age and older. COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, which includes studies in adolescents and children. They are safe and effective.

With the holiday season upon us, keep your ‘ohana safe and healthy and get vaccinated today, including your keiki.

For those who are celebrating, please consider these tips to gather safely:

- Celebrate outdoors and ensure there is lots of space to spread out.
- Wear a mask, especially when indoors, except when eating and drinking.
- Limit gathering size to a small group.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly.
- Get tested for COVID-19.

For more information on how to get vaccinated, visit mauihealth.org/covidvaccine.

MAUI MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER VACCINE CLINIC HOURS*

Monday through Friday — 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm
Walk-ins welcomed for all qualified vaccine recipients.**
Holiday closures: December 23, 24, and 31
(MMMC administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine only)

For questions, call (808) 242-2273 or email us at mh-covid-vaccine@kp.org.

*Clinic hours subject to change. Please visit mauihealth.org/covidvaccine for current schedule.
**Vaccine recipients under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

mauihealth.org | [#THISISOURSHOT](https://twitter.com/THISISOURSHOT)



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



The Christmas holiday season is even more important as we gather as family and friends to celebrate together, especially after not being able to gather together for the last two holiday seasons due to the pandemic.

Count Your Blessings One By One ...

The holiday season brings us to that special time when we reflect on all that happened to each of us ... big, small, good, bad and everything in between. We at *The Fil-Am Voice* are especially aware of our blessings at this time.

The years 2020 and 2021 gave us unique, unexpected challenges, bringing communities everywhere a paramount reason to think and act together. No one has been spared the effects of a global pandemic, where even as we began to feel some small measure of relief, we are once again faced with a new, more infectious strain of the virus. Medical experts tell us today to wait until more information is available and to be even more cautious about masking, social distancing and not gathering. Vaccinations are still our best hope to

prevent lockdowns. Fortunately, the U.S.A. leads the world in the production and dissemination of millions of doses to places and people that need the most help. The blessings of unified action across the world have become an apparent, urgent necessity.

An even more significant and heartwarming blessing is the immediate, ongoing response to the pandemic, demonstrating heartfelt care and concern from all segments of our community—from our medical first responders and teams of experts, to hospital staff, families and friends, generosity of donors from businesses, big and small. What rose above and beyond these actions is the clear acknowledgement, practice and broad acceptance of the resiliency of the full spectrum of humanity

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



Tasha Kama with her family at the Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center as she and her husband David celebrate their anniversary.

PHOTO COURTESY TASHA KAMA

Leadership ...

from p. 3

4. IN 500 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN THE THREE GREATEST NEEDS OF MAUI'S FIL-IPINO COMMUNITY.

The needs of Maui County's Filipino community is mirrored through much of our working class members' needs. First, affordable housing is key to folks who live and work here. As your chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, I take seriously my duty to provide truly affordable housing to our workers. Secondly, as a parent I see the struggle our youth are facing with making ends meet and living a happy and healthy life. We are losing our youth because we are not giving them solid opportunities. Many of us work 2 or 3 jobs so that we can raise our children. As our children join the workforce, we must provide better jobs and educational opportunities to keep them here and avoid the brain drain that makes them move away. Finally, the need to take care of our older community members is a top priority for me. Senior housing, healthcare, and better social services are top issues for our kūpuna. The County can do well by funding programs to address these issues.

Tasha Kama

1. IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS.



I have been a community organizer for nearly 40 years. While raising my 11 children and welcoming 31 grandchildren and two (soon three) great grandchildren, I also invested time in numerous community organizations. I volunteered with the 'Āo School PTSA, founded the Waiohuli-Kēōkea Homestead Associations that advocated for infrastructure from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, served on the commission to compensate OHA trustees, sat on the Hawaiian Sovereignty Advisory and Elections Commission and assisted various other organizations. To better serve my community, I earned a degree in Human Services from the University of Hawai'i - Maui College.

2. IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US:

A. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR MAUI?

I envision a community that is not only safe and healthy, but also thriving.

see LEADERSHIP p.9



Tiny homes provide shelter for those in need in front Ka Hale A Ke Ola.

PHOTO COURTESY TASHA KAMA



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Will Espero
PHOTO: ALCHETRON, THE FREE SOCIAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Former West O’ahu State Senator Will Espero has written his first novel (he earlier released a collection of his *haikus*). Set firmly in today’s Honolulu, Espero writes about what he knows well—Hawai’i politics, politicians and controversial public policy issues—woven into a contested election campaign and the aftermath of that race as another election approaches. First-term Democratic Governor Thomas Henderson and his Republican rival, hotel resort head Jarod Wong clash even as their various family members find themselves entwined politically and personally. In a way, Espero understands Honolulu (and Hawai’i generally), remains a small town where your connections are often closer than your differences—and especially among the island’s business and political elite. And like many good stories, people in *Passion in Paradise* hold secrets that hidden too long impact choices affecting not just individuals but entire families and communities.

Espero’s public service spanned most of O’ahu government—administrator in the City and County of Honolulu’s neighborhood board commission and elected to both the Hawai’i House of Representatives and the State Senate. He represented mainly working-class communities in West O’ahu over the course of two decades. Espero closed his elected career with unsuccessful runs—in crowded fields—for the U.S. Congress in 2014, Lt. Governor in 2018 and Honolulu City Council in 2020. In the Legislature, Espero made a mark as a

prominent critic of the police and an advocate for reforming criminal drug laws and decriminalizing prostitution by recognizing and reforming human trafficking laws.

So it’s not surprising most of the action in his first novel takes place on O’ahu. What is surprising is his two main characters—Democrat Henderson and Republican Wong—while scions of longtime Hawai’i families, descend without any of the inter-marriage that marks much of modern Hawai’i. Other local ethnic communities are represented by minor characters—including the first Filipina Mayor of Honolulu. In that sense, this is not the long-awaited sequel to James Michener’s *Hawaii*. Instead of the “Golden Men” who built the islands (with the occasional strong woman), Espero’s Hawai’i residents are mainly

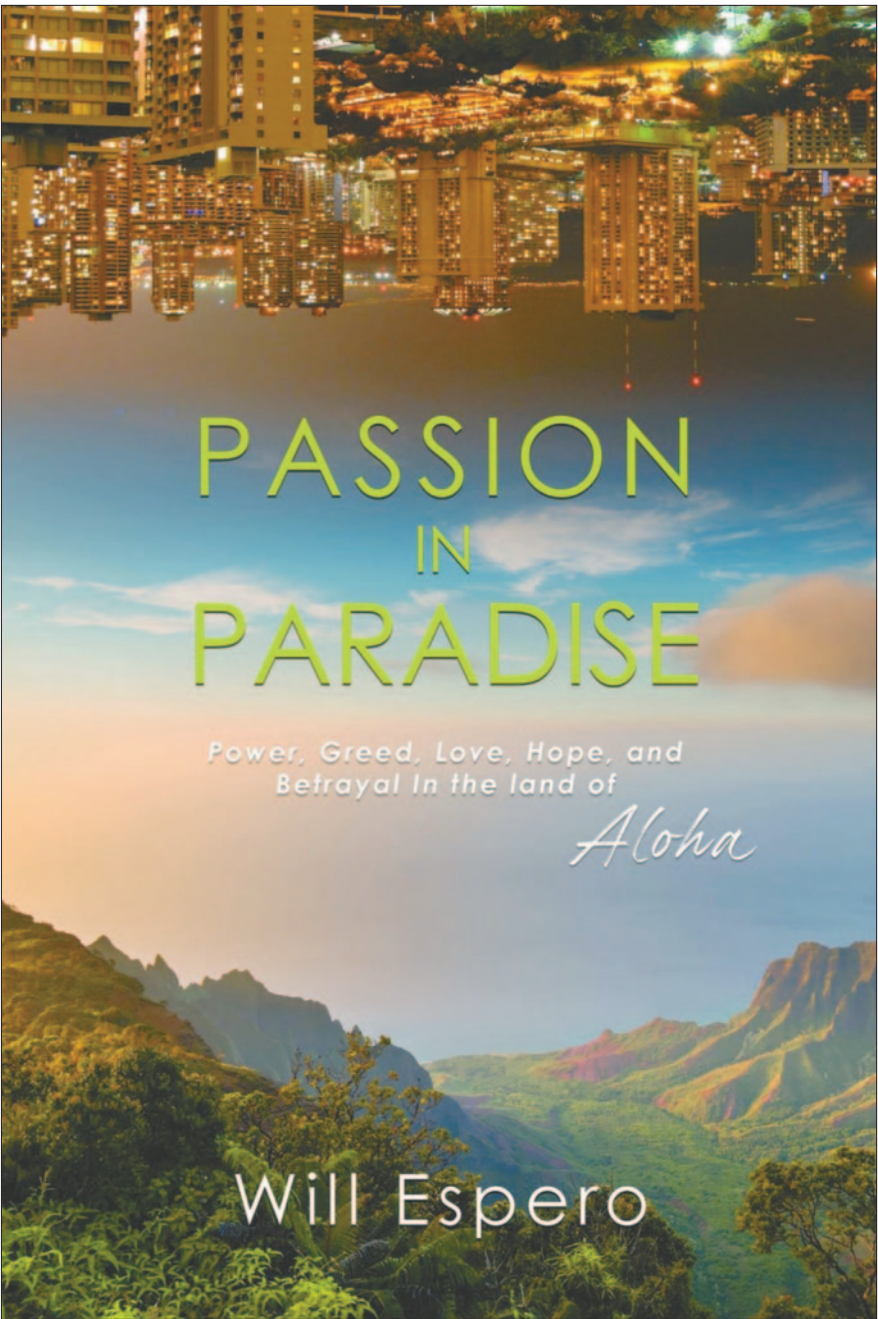
DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Passion in Paradise Reviewed

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

flawed (with perhaps the exception of Henderson who maintains his pragmatic idealism throughout) and who are led, as the title suggests, by their passions. In that sense, it’s akin to modern stories about Hawai’i.

Wong is the most flawed and is the



Passion In Paradise
IMAGE COURTESY WILL ESPERO

most interesting character, dominating much of the story as much as he apparently dominates the visitor industry as head of a sprawling hotel conglomerate. Given his politics, Espero seems happy to describe Wong as both a ruthless and shrewd businessperson (pushing out, for example, relatives from company leadership) and a somewhat naïve and craven political candidate. Yet it’s Wong who propels the novel spiraling into a dizzying maze of political maneuvering, business shenanigans and personal relationships and sexual affairs.

Perhaps as the first novel in a projected series, Espero spends a good portion of the book introducing the Hendersons and Wongs, explaining their history in Hawai’i and placing the lives of various friends, cronies and colleagues in that backstory. The names of various characters perhaps reflect the diversity of Hawai’i’s population but leave

much to flesh out in dialogue and actions. Henderson and Wong, for example, stay in their ideological lanes for the most part throughout the gubernatorial campaign that opens the story and the debates over building more homeless and local housing, legalizing recreational cannabis, decriminalizing prostitution and increasing investments by the visitor industry in social programs that spin through the rest of the story. The art of making sausage gets some short shrift as legislative leaders counsel Governor Henderson on his bills package.

Espero joins a number of former Hawai’i public officials who have published books. Governor George Ariyoshi wrote a short policy memoir (*With Obligation to All* 1997) which in tone and structure reflected his public and apparently his private, persona, followed decades later by a more policy driven tome reflecting on the islands since he left office and what directions the state could pursue going forward (*Hawai’i’s Future* 2020).

see PASSION next page



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Mom and dad won the Ama at Ina award during the Rice Festival held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

Caregiver ...

from p. 2

Haliimaile until she was 100 years old. She was able to take care of herself with no assistance, cooked for herself, able to take medication by herself and even took care of her flower and vegetable garden. She didn't have Alzheimer and no dementia. She was amazing! Unfortunately, two weeks after her 100th birthday, beginning of Covid-19, Mom suffered a mild heart attack. Even though it was a mild heart attack, it really affected her physically. For her safety, I took her in to live with me.

It was a blessing in disguise I was able to take care of her at home and not put her at the care facilities especially in the midst of the pandemic where no one was allowed to visit them. Mom would have been devastated, feeling all alone and feeling abandoned. I am almost sure she wouldn't have survived a year as she did. While at my house, her friends and our family members, especially her grandchildren and great

see CAREGIVER p.8

Passion ...

from p. 5

Hawai'i's only Filipino American Governor Ben Cayetano wrote a frank, vivid and often entertaining autobiography (*Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid to Governor* 2009) which captured

coming of age during the Territorial post-war years, the disconnects between meritocracy and island culture and Hawai'i politics only a decade or so after Hawai'i attained statehood. Both the late Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka—Hawai'i's longtime U.S. Senators—also offered short but powerful biographical tomes: *Journey to*

Washington (with Lawrence Elliott 1968) at the beginning of a seminal legislative career and *One Voice: My Life, Times and Hopes for Hawai'i* (with Jim Borg) 2017) after the end of an era. More recently, former U.S. Congresswoman Pat Saiki (who would lose the 1994 Gubernatorial election to Cayetano) released her memoir, *A Woman In The House* (2021), while current Hawai'i U.S. Senator (and Cayetano's Lt. Gov.) Mazie Hirono has written the well-regarded *Heart of Fire: An Immigrant Daughter's Story* (2021). And of course, Hawai'i-born Barack Obama released the first volume of his autobiography, *A Promised Land* (2020), which follows his powerful and readable *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* (2004) and presidential launch statement *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* (2007).

Hawai'i elected officials have more rarely gone the fictional route: then U.S. Congressman (and future Governor) Neil Abercrombie's 1997 *Blood of Patriots* (perhaps adding mainly his name and Congressional insights to this side entry of Richard Hoyt's John Burling thriller series). Fiction allows a writer to argue points of view through characters without ascribing to a particular point of view. In one such passage, Espero notes matter-of-factly the legislative wrangling over the sex trade is a historical and even hypocritical given present-day Hawai'i: ... young women entertained at dozens of strip clubs scattered around O'ahu. Stripping and dancing naked is legal in Hawai'i and most of the industrial world, and women from around the globe could be found in the darkened night-clubs filled with single men, college students, successful businesspersons, tourists, military personnel, and others who want to enjoy the sight of gyrating hips, sexy legs, and curvaceous bodies. While this scene was legal, the irony of exchanging cash for physical pleasure between consenting adults remained ...

Like the rest of the United States and other countries, the sex trade was once legal in the Kingdom of Hawai'i long ago. The arrival of European explorers, whalers and businessmen opened the door to prostitution. Prior to the Europeans' arrival to the islands, there was no prostitution in the Hawaiian Islands although polygamy was practiced by early Hawaiians.

Up until World War II, the sex industry was thriving in the United States Territory of Hawai'i. By the end of the 1800s, the community of Iwilei was identified by the powers to be as the red-light district of Honolulu. In 1860, an act to register sex workers and regulate the industry passed the Territorial Legislature. Eventually the Iwilei district was closed due to protests and advocacy by missionaries and others. The brothels soon moved into the Chinatown area nearby. An era of liberal deregulation, unofficial acceptance, and minimal government oversight had taken root.

The advent of World War II brought high demand for the sex industry by soldiers and sailors entering the Pacific war arena. Due to pressure from moralists and conservatives, the remaining brothels of O'ahu and the red-light district of Honolulu were eventually shut down in 1944.

At the heart of it, *Passions in Paradise* is a classic tragedy. The mystery is which of the heroes falls further from all his or her flaws and which rises above those problems. Henderson is perhaps too much of a Boy Scout while Wong might, in the end, be too much of a rogue. ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran is one of six Filipinos in the twenty-five member State Senate. He served six legislative sessions with Will Espero, chairing the Senate Judiciary committee while Espero headed the Public Safety committee, the two committees sharing responsibility

for trafficking and drug laws.

From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

among us. Highlighting our resiliency keeps us profoundly aware of our many blessings.

Most of all, we are blessed by the powerful reminder of the fundamental importance of family, biological and *hānai*, near and far. These bonds prevent the onslaught of the worst disease of all, loneliness and its resulting stages of depression. Relationships and close heart connection are still the foundational building blocks for joy, gratitude and upliftment for most of us.

First and foremost, we want to thank you for supporting and encouraging us to bring you relevant stories monthly, which we hope will inspire us all to be united as a community. To the businesses that supported us with monthly ad buys, we thank you for sustaining our local and community paper. For your continued support and encouragement, we say *Salamat Po* and *Mabuhay!*

Christmas is a season of great joy—and it is a time of our God showing His real love for us. It is a time of healing and renewed strength. Let's remember the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift—the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. Christ demonstrated the amazing power of faith, hope and the importance of love. The special message of Christmas is hope ... faith love ... joy ... life. It is about giv-

ing up one's self for others—and to bring happiness to others—that would be the greatest gift that anyone can give to a stranger. Best gifts to give this Christmas season are not material things; instead—a listening ear, a smile, a word of encouragement, sharing a meal with someone, forgiving someone who may have offended or hurt you *and* to give a little respite to someone who is caring for an elderly or ill family member.

Christ demonstrated the strength of summoning our better angels. Let us try to have the character and heart of Christ to make our island home a much better place for us, residents and visitors alike.

The Christmas holiday season is even more important as we gather as family and friends to celebrate together, especially after not being able to gather together for the last two holiday seasons due to the pandemic.

Make every moment count.

We wish you all a blessed and Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year! *Maligayang Pasko Sa Inyong Lahat! Feliz Navidad! Mele Kalikimaka! ✨*

Vince Bagoyo

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



December? It’s the last month of the year! Where did the time go? If you are having a tough time believing it’s already the last month of the year, you are not alone. Time flies by so fast. Holidays are here. Well, ready or not ready for it, it’s here. The holiday season is here and the year is ending. How are you celebrating Christmas this year? What

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

is the new normal to celebrate the holidays? What’s the most treasured or practical gifts this year? Whatever you receive, be grateful ... it’s the thought that counts. Shout out to all December babies

especially to my sister-in-law Maricel Agcaoili Butay, to my Auntie Guadalupe “Oping” Bautista, to my best friend Kristine Arquillo-Vicente and her son Zachary Xavier Vicente, and to my niece Anissa Lynn Marie Casabay. Let’s see what is going on with our story this month and what Uncle Ray and Katherine are up to, shall we?

RAY: “Hey bro, is Mickey home?”

THOM: “*Indi* (No), he wasn’t here when I came home last night. Then I went to bed early. I was hoping I could catch him this morning but he already left. I was going to discuss something with him about a big case the DEA asked me to handle. Wait, did you call him?”

RAY: “Yes bro, but it goes straight to his voicemail.”

THOM: “That’s strange. He usually answers his phone. Let me ask my wife.”

Ray could hear Thom on the phone asking his wife.

THOM: “Did you see Michael last night? How about this morning? Did you call him?” Then there’s a muffled voice that Ray could not hear or understand.

THOM: “Ray, I have to call you back. His mom was able to reach him.”

RAY: “Can you tell him to call me? I want to show him something.”

THOM: “*Oo* (Yes), sure, I’ll let him call you.”

RAY: “Thanks, Bro.”

Ray walks around his desk and sits on his chair. Katherine follows him. She looks at him as he stares back with wide *mata* (eyes).

Concerned, she asks. “Can you tell me now *anni* (what) is wrong Ray?”

Ray turns pale and lifts the manila folder.

Katherine snatches the folder and opens it.

She begins to read.

An officer was found dead in a car not registered under his name.

He suffered multiple shots to the head and neck area.

There were two suspects an older

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Kiss	Halik	Anggo	Paghalok	Haluk	Ummo	Muma
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Yes	Oo	Wen	Kurug	Wa	Oo	Oo
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni’?	Nanoyin?

gentleman and a young lady. They were caught with Officer Dela Cruz earlier on a monitoring camera at Honolulu Airport. One is thought to have migrated to Maui and the other is suspected to still be on O’ahu. Currently the case is open and has been assigned to Police Sergeant Ray Walker on Maui and Honolulu Detective Armando Garcia.

“Ok. So I don’t get it. Ray, it’s just another case. You handled so many of these cases before. If you are worried that you won’t do great, stop that ...”

Ray pulls out his cell phone and shows Katherine a selfie of himself, Michael and his new girlfriend Angel.

Katherine’s *mata* (eyes) widen and her jaw drops.

Katherine begins to scream and Ray jumps at her, covering her mouth from belting out a horrible sound.

Grunting sounds and muffled voice vibrations escape through Ray’s *kamay* (hands) and exaggerated fully extended arms waving in the air as Ray says

“Shhh, shhh, shhh,” as he looks at her with a helpless look on his *mukha* (face).

She instantly stops and calms down as soon as she locks on to Ray’s *mata* (eyes).

Of all the years they’ve known each other, there has only been a handful of times Ray had this look. A look of confusion, desperation and helplessness. The last time he looked this way was when Monica Fuentes broke up with him over the weekend during their Junior year. They were going out for a whole week and Ray swore he loved her. He talked about her to Katherine all day every day, to the point where Katherine really thought about breaking up their friendship before the day came. Ray was sitting at the bus stop. Katherine threw a football in his direction. She called out “Heads up.” Normally Ray would at least glance in her direction but today he didn’t. She was running towards him like she always does and before

she lunged at him, the ball hit the side of his head. She speared right into him knocking him to the ground.

As he grunted softly, he sat up while slowly picking grass from his head. As Katherine got up quickly and began her victory dance, she spun around and he was there looking at her with beady red *mata* (eyes). She locked *mata* (eyes) with him and slowly calmed down. No words needed. But pain and suffering just cast down on them.

She *yakap* (hugged) him then. She *gagap-pan* (hugs) him now.

A *mukha* (face) plastered with disbelief comes over him.

“Kat, *hani* (what) do I do?” Ray murmurs.

“Wait, *nanoyin* (what)? How did this happen? I thought your nephew was gay?” Katherine asks.

“I don’t know. I thought he was too. He never talks about girls. Every time there are girls in the room, he always walks away. I set him up on a blind date and he does not show up. In fact, he avoids me for weeks. I just assumed he did not like girls. I never talked to him about it but when he started to talk to me again, I just let everything go. ‘When he comes out of the closet, I will deal with it when we cross that bridge,’ I told myself.” Ray explained.

“He is my first nephew and I love him like he is my own son. I was his main babysitter. He would come with me to the swap meet on Saturdays. I would dress him up in Patriots gear during Super Bowl Sunday. We would go fishing and camping. I love that kid,” Ray continues.

Ray begins to tear up. His *puso*

see LET’S TALK PINOY p.9



Merry Christmas

from

Shirley Evangelista

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Mom celebrated her 95th birthday in this family picture.

Caregiver ...

from p. 6

grandchildren, were able to visit her which made her very happy. I was also able to cook the food she liked and en-

joyed eating.

Mom needed 24/7 care. Hospice Maui provided all the necessary materials to keep her comfortable, e.g. hospital bed, bed upright tray, beddings, bed mats, diapers, under wears, toiletries and even an oxygen tank. A Hospice

nurse came once week to check her vitals and they also came anytime whenever Mom needed their emergency care. The Hospice aides came three times a week to bathe her. A couple of volunteers came for two hours to keep Mom company, talk stories with her to relieve

me, while I went out and did appointments as well as shopping for our basic necessities. It was also good for my own well being to go out during those two hours. Hospice Staff are a very compassionate group of people. I call them “An-see CAREGIVER p.12



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Mom with grandson Dylan Joshua Cabalo.

Leadership ...

from p. 4

ing. People would be able to buy or rent a home they can afford, work at stable jobs, start a business if they desired. The aloha spirit would be alive and well, where neighbors looked after each other and visitors understand the importance of respecting our island’s environment and customs.

B. WHAT IS RIGHT WITH MAUI?

Having been born and raised in the islands, I can say there truly is no place on earth like Maui. It is a beautiful place that has welcomed generations of people who came here to work and live, while tasking us with preserving its “ano” (sacredness).

C. WHAT IS WRONG WITH MAUI?

I see it more as an ongoing challenge, than something that is particularly “wrong,” but it certainly takes all of us working together to protect the people and the land that make our island home so special. We have our differences, but with mutual respect and a commitment to having the difficult conversations, we can overcome



Tasha Kama talks story with Maui’s kūpuna to share information to learn what their needs are so they can be better served.

some of the chaos and dissatisfaction we have seen recently. Our ancestors have given us a wealth of knowledge on how to resolve conflict successfully, but it takes effort and integrity.

3. IN 125 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH



Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the island of Maui, Kama worked to help transform the old University of Hawai’i Maui College dormitories into what it is today.

PHOTOS COURTESY TASHA KAMA

MAUI’S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

My relationship with the Filipino community began when I was a new student at Mannheim Elementary school, and I was in third grade. The first student to approach me was a girl from Hilo who was of Filipino descent. Through her friendship I experienced firsthand the many ways that Filipinos are gracious, kind and helpful. Her father transferred to another duty station, but I never forgot how she made me, a total stranger, feel at ease. Since then, I have been blessed to have gained many Filipino friends and family members as cousins, aunts,

ties, uncles, nieces, nephews, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am also glad to support our Filipino community by helping secure funding for projects and important initiatives.

4. IN 500 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN THE THREE GREATEST NEEDS OF MAUI’S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

Since coming to the islands in the early 1900s, Filipinos have worked hard to provide for their families, seek education, instill community-oriented values and ensure a successful future for the next generation. With the economic and health challenges now upon us, it has become more difficult to achieve these goals.

Our Filipino community needs the support of government leaders to ensure that families and individuals have a variety of work opportunities to provide steady and fulfilling employment, whether as employees in various sectors or as business owners. While our economy remains heavily dependent on tourism, there are new opportunities such as online commerce and remote working that offer flexibility and a living wage. Financial counseling can also be helpful for those saving up to buy a home or dealing with back rent or utility payments. Services provided through County contracts with Hawaiian Community Assets, MEO, Catholic Charities Hawai’i and other agencies can help anyone in need of guidance and assistance.

see LEADERSHIP p.13

Let’s Talk Pinoy! | Cont’d from p.7

(heart) aches.
“Then when I saw him that night in Lahaina. Out behind him popped a *napintas* (beautiful) girl,” Ray says delightedly.
“Ya?” Kathrine with beady *mata* (eyes) replies.
“Yes!” Ray speaks with such excitement.
“And she wasn’t just a girl. She was *maanyag* (beautiful). I was so shocked, taken aback. It took me awhile to digest what was happening,” Ray says.
Katherine *pahiyum* (smiles) ear to ear listening to Ray’s story.
“I was so happy I almost cried. I *arakup* (hugged) her so hard I think I could’ve crushed all her bones but I didn’t. I just wanted them to tell me they were together for years and he was hiding her under some kind of rock or something. But they were just shy and nervous,” Ray continues.
“I wanted to bite the two of them and crush their little heads. I was so excited with joy,” Ray clinches onto Katherine’s shoulder. As he grips, Katherine winces a little while looking at his *kamot* (hand).



ally hurt” and she lunges into him and they both fall to the floor. She shoves her elbow into his throat. But he doesn’t care. He is so overcome with happiness in his *korason* (heart) he just pulls her in close and *kawul* (hugs) her, almost crushing her as well.
She kneels him again in the groin and he lets her go. She lies face to face with him and says to him “Don’t mess with me Ray.” As they look at each other, she *anggo* (kisses) him. And he *halik* (kisses) her back.
Is love in the air? Will Ray and Katherine finally have their chance to be a couple?
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/Fil-AmVoiceMaui.
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 received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai’i - West O’ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is now part of 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.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon

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Fr. John Tomoso blesses the renovated Bahay Kubo.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



The Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, volunteers and guests pose after a lei ceremony of the Jose Rizal.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista.
Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.com.



University of Hawai'i Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana with volunteers from UHMC at a recent Bakuna at Binhi at Ani clinic.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation held a blessing on December 12 of the renovated *Bahay Kubo* at the Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens in 'Iao. Rev. John A.H. Tomoso officiated at the blessing which was attended by the officers and directors of the Foundation. After the blessing, the Board of Directors honored Jose Rizal by placing lei



on the Rizal bust. If anyone wants to volunteer to help maintain the *Bahay Kubo*, please email bahaykubomaui@gmail.com. Monetary donations are still needed and can be mailed to Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, 32 Hapua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793. T-shirt sales are still available through flipsideurbanapparel.com.
BINHI AT ANI
Binhi at Ani Filipino Community



Center is now open for events inside the Center. There are protocols to follow. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bakuna at Binhi at Ani
Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center was the site of three vaccination clinics coordinated by the Veterans Administration, the State of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i Medical Center. University of Hawai'i Maui College Chan-

cellor Lui Hokoana dropped in during one vaccination clinic. State Representative Sylvia Luke (Chair of the House Finance Committee) together with State Representative Kyle Yamashita (House Finance committee member) also dropped in and met with representatives of the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i Maui College and Binhi at Ani.
#BayanihanFeedingProgram
The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui. As of November 30, a total of 5,202 meals were delivered. There is a need for



State Representatives Sylvia Luke and Kyle Yamashita pose with volunteers from University of Hawai'i Maui College.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Nursing student Lennel Alvarez provides a booster shot to her grandmother while her twin sisters observe.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA





Bayanihan Feeding Program
PHOTO: LINDSEY RODRIGUES

additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. The teams serving during the month of December are Binhi at Ani and Friends of Michael Victorino. Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8> or by contacting Chelsea Guzman, chairperson of Binhi at Ani's Health and Wellness committee at guzman.chelsea.i@gmail.com or Sheena Marie Garo, co-chairperson at sheena.garo@gmail.com. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Bin-

hi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

Scholarship Golf Tournament
The Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at The Dunes of Maui Lani. Sponsorships are available as follows: Platinum - \$1400 (eight players); Gold - \$750 (four players); Team - \$600 (four players). To receive a copy of the registration form, please contact Arnel Alvarez, Chairperson of the Golf Committee, at (808) 357-0748 or via email Lenra1268@gmail.com.

Scholarship Awards
The Application for the 2022 Scholarship is now available on-line and through the guidance counselor of each high school. For more information, contact Michelle Balala, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, at (808) 268-8915 or via email michelle.balala@live.com. Applications are due by March 1, 2022.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Congratulations to Domingo "Jing" Gumpal on his election as president of the



Golfers love to pose in front of last year's hole-in-one prize.
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



A scholarship recipient during the 2021 The Seed and Harvest Dinner.
PHOTO KELSEY HERROLD

Maui Filipino Community Council. Also elected were: Lawrence Pascua, vice president; Marilyn Oura, recording secretary; Michelle Santos, corresponding secretary; Virgilio "Leo" Agcolicol, treasurer; Judith Piano, assistant treasurer; Bart Santiago, Sr., auditor; and directors Melanie Garde, Maggie Evangelista, Carlito Lopez, Madelyne Pascua and Greg Peros.



The new Board of Directors of the Maui Filipino Community Council.
GRAPHIC: LAWRENCE PASCUA



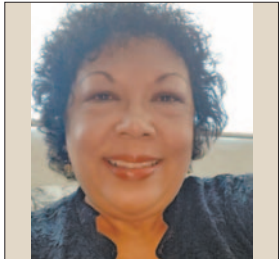
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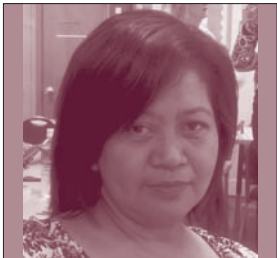
Virgilio "Leo" Agcolicol
TREASURER



Judith Piano
ASSISTANT TREASURER



Bart Santiago, Sr.
AUDITOR



Melanie Garde
DIRECTOR



Maggie Evangelista
DIRECTOR



Carlito Lopez
DIRECTOR



Madelyne Pascua
DIRECTOR



Gregory Peros
DIRECTOR



Mom and I did a painting activity together.

Caregiver ...

from p. 8

gels On Earth.”
 Since Mom needed my attention 24/7, to keep me always aware of her needs anytime, I bought a baby monitor

and placed it by her to help me see how she is. She can also speak on it to get my attention. I also hung a little cow bell by her bed railing which she can ring anytime she needed my attention. It was very effective because I could hear the bell ringing even when I was outside doing something else. The only problem was, sometimes she touched it

by mistake and I would be running to check on her especially when it happened at night when I was sleeping. My sleep got interrupted and by the time I got back to bed, I wasn’t able to sleep for a length of time.
 Mom was qualified to receive her lunch from Meals On Wheels from the
see CAREGIVER p.17

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Mom, looking good on her 99th birthday.

Leadership ...

from p. 9

It is also crucial that our family-oriented Filipino community has access to affordable homes to buy or rent, as they are a solid foundation for our overall community. Access to health care is also important, as many working in service industries have experienced higher Covid risk and death rates than all other ethnic groups in the state. We must ensure that Filipinos have the health resources and knowledge they need to stay healthy despite the ongoing pandemic.

I also believe that Filipinos need greater representation in and more active engagement with local government. Filipinos of all ages with an interest in the legislative process can participate in Council proceedings, and more Filipino candidates would help their community's voices be heard.

It is also critical that Filipinos have access to County and State services with regard to immigration support, as many families are grappling with oft-changing federal regulations and restrictions. Recognizing that the growth of families is a substantial component of my vision for Maui County, the County should do what it can to assist Filipino families who have staked their future on this special place to reunite with their loved ones.

Lastly, while this question focused on what the Filipino community needs, I would argue that, more importantly, our Maui community needs the Filipino community with its energy, drive and proven success to help us succeed in a post-tourism-dependent and post-Covid economy. Maui County is in the crux of re-envisioning its economy and we need the Filipino community to help lead us to a prosperous future with greater equity of opportunity for all.

Mike Molina



1. IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS.

Mike Molina, Maui County Councilmember 2001-2010, 2019-Present. Authored major housing and environmental legislation (Affordable Housing Fund, First Time Home Buyers Fund, Outdoor Lighting Bill, Plastic Bag Reduction Law.) Born in Wailuku, Maui and currently resides in Makawao, Maui. Graduated from Maui High



Mike Molina surveys the damage that flooding brought to Kaupakalua back in March of this year.

PHOTO COURTESY MIKE MOLINA

School 1978. Served in the United States Air Force and Hawai'i Air National Guard. Graduated from University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am a former public school teacher and Maui Chapter President, of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association. My spouse, Cielo Batan Molina, is Tagalog and was born in Manila and raised in Quezon City. We have three children.

2. IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US: A) WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR MAUI? B) WHAT IS RIGHT WITH MAUI? C) WHAT IS WRONG WITH MAUI?

My vision for Maui County is to continue our economic recovery from the pandemic by diversifying our economy which includes expanding our agriculture, health care and technology industries while balancing our economic growth with the need to protect our environment.

What is going right for Maui County is that I am honored to be part of a County Council that responds to many concerns expressed by the public. Our Council continues to provide funding to improve our parks, roads, public safety, and social services. We have also passed legislation that protects our environment and supports affordable housing.

What is not right for Maui County is the desperate need for more affordable housing. Over tourism is also a problem. While tourism provides jobs and tax revenue it also impacts our residents quality of life with more traffic, less beach parking for our residents and tourists who disrespect our culture and environment. We need to hold the tourism industry accountable for these impacts and continue to find ways to limit the impacts of the visitor industry.

3. IN 125 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MAUI'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

I have tremendous respect and ap-

preciation for the Filipino culture and have always worked towards establishing an open, and positive relationship with leaders of the Filipino community. I am grateful for the contributions made to Maui County by our present and past Filipino leaders. Over the years, I have supported funding requests for Immigrant Services, the Barrio Fiesta, and the Binhi at Ani Community Center. I will continue to do my part to encourage members of

the Filipino community to become involved with government and not be afraid to express their opinions to Local, State and Federal government leaders.

4. IN 500 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN THE THREE GREATEST NEEDS OF MAUI'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

Affordable Housing is the first of

see LEADERSHIP p.17



Mike Molina rides atop a horse during the Makawao Rodeo this past July.

PHOTO COURTESY MIKE MOLINA



Piper Pascua



Rylan Acorda Agapay



Jansen Aceret

Google®

Is Not Everything ... The School Dance

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2022

Gyms, cafeterias and hotels with crepe paper and colorful lights strung around the ceiling. Today's and yesterday's hit songs echoing through the crowd. Three groups of people: those against the wall, those dancing as a mass of students and those lining up for the bathroom. If you've ever experienced a school dance, these descriptions have likely brought back memories of your high school years.

Listening to stories of school dances and dramatic scenes from coming-of-age romantic comedy movies has increased the anticipation of these events for upperclassmen students. Safety precautions canceled public school dances and private school dances were few and far between last year. But students across Maui have several school dances to look forward to now. One of these is Lahainaluna's Winter Ball at the Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Kā'anapali. **Piper Pascua**, a senior from Lahainaluna, describes

how excited she is for this special night: "I consider myself a very social person and I like that dances give you the opportunity to socialize with others and spend time with your friends." Piper has terrific memories of dances, banquets and balls in her high school career, from getting done-up with her friends to singing along with everyone to a great song the DJ put on. Once, at a middle school dance, the energy was a bit low, so two of her classmates started a dance battle: one was a trained dancer and the other was "most definitely not." She says it was still thrilling to watch the two try to show each other up, though, and "their energy rubbed off on everyone else." The dance was more lively than ever after the dance battle had concluded.

Many people have an excellent time letting loose and being a part of the crowd and some have the same amount of fun away from the spotlight. "School dances are entertaining

but I wouldn't participate in them," **Rylan Acorda Agapay**, a Maui High School junior, remarks. He doesn't care for dancing in front of others and prefers to enjoy himself on the sidelines. However, Rylan knows his upcoming Junior Prom will be an excellent opportunity for him and his classmates to have a blast despite his apprehensiveness. To make the night even more memorable, he wants to "pull up to prom" with his group of friends in a nice car. In his eyes, trying his hardest to dress formally definitely warrants a flashy arrival. And who knows? Maybe with a grand enough entrance, Rylan's friends will convince him to join them on the dance floor.

Dancing and friends aren't the only aspects that contribute to prom's fame, though. Getting a chance to dress up, especially in a place with a very casual fashion attitude like Maui, is a whole other reason to look forward to them. Although **Jansen Aceret** isn't attending his senior prom this year due to COVID, as a "lover of fashion," he appreciates the effort people put into looking their best for a one-night-only event. The Maui High senior can't wait to serve as his friends' stylist and help them get dressed. Still, Jansen explains his attitude toward high school dances shifted during this past year and a half: "I think that the pandemic has taught me a lot about practicality and how it

doesn't matter whether or not you attend school dances." Instead of putting so much emotional weight on one night, he seems to prefer making every day with his friends a special, unforgettable one.

Some look back on school dances as the best nights of their lives and others forget who their date was. But no matter which type of person they are, most remember those nights for their sole purpose; the opportunity to let loose a little with classmates outside of school. And as our high school years come to a close, there is little else we could ask for than to make more memories with the people we have grown up with. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything ... is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Brooklyn Jones**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is an assistant editor in her school's journalism program, *Saber Scribes*, and also a member of the *Girls Can STEM Club*. 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*.



PLASTIC FREE

MAUI COUNTY

SCAN ME



[MauiCounty.gov/PlasticFree](https://maui-county.hawaii.gov/plastic-free/)



Effective January 1, 2022: Plastic disposable foodware shall not be sold, used, or provided by any "food provider," person, or business in Maui County, except by approved exemption.



Mother and son. This UHMC student administers a shot to his Mom.
PHOTO ALFREDO G EVANGELISTA



Arthur Latayada receives his booster shot.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Lawrence Pascua, Fil-Am Voice Art Director receives his booster shot.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

We have started to feel comfortable in this current state of life. Wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, washing hands, being mindful of high-risk gathering situations, getting vaccinated, getting tested and staying home if feeling sick have all been the mainstays of COVID management for over 21 months. Filipinos in the State of Hawai'i make up the largest ethnic group that have died from COVID. We have suffered and endured. We are stressed, frustrated and tired of living this way but yet we have managed to work around these adaptations to carry out a work and social life balance that has incorporated these safety precautions.

We must learn to live with COVID for the years to come because the virus will be regularly found in our population. This is the definition of an endemic state. Many have chosen to refuse vaccination from COVID, thus the eradication of COVID will be literally impossible. Many parts of the world do not have access to an adequate supply of vaccines and we may never get to a satisfactory immunization rate that prevents infection and spread. We have moved from overwhelming fear of a novel virus to a realm of vigilance and

Is This the New Normal

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

management. For us on Maui, vaccine boosters are now available for those over age 18. Vaccines for those 12 to 17 years old have not yet been approved but will be soon. For those who have received the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer/Moderna), a period of six months since the second shot is required to be eligible. For Johnson and Johnson, only two months are needed after the single dose to receive a booster. The COVID vaccines are also "mix and match" and you may receive whatever booster vaccination you desire. It is best to stick with the same brand of vaccine if you received the mRNA vaccines Pfizer or Moderna. Many people who have received J&J are opting for an mRNA vaccine for their booster dose. Either way, all three vaccines essentially provide the same level of excellent protection from severe COVID illness, hospitalization and death. The booster dose only takes a few days to raise the antibody levels against COVID and thus pro-

vides quick protection from infection, illness and spread. Keiki ages 5 through 11 years old are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine series. Now we can protect our children from becoming ill or transmitting the disease to others. Vaccine clinics, pharmacies and community events are up and running busily distributing first time Pfizer immunizations to keiki as well as giving boosters to adults. All the efforts to get our population vaccinated comes along in perfect timing to provide further protection through this Holiday season. Living in an endemic state means restrictions will continue to ease, more large events and gatherings will take place and restaurants will be operating at full capacity now that the State of Hawai'i has eased the rules. Many people will be more comfortable visiting friends and family on the mainland for the Holidays. Tourists will be coming to enjoy the warmth and weather of our islands. Many are taking extra precautions by only going to events requiring vaccinations, avoiding large gatherings or are doing rapid antigen home self-testing to see if they are infected and potentially spreading the contagious virus particles at planned events. In the last few weeks, we have seen a rise in the number of COVID cases on the mainland in about half the States as well as parts of Europe. More activities in those parts of the world are held indoors due to less daylight hours and colder weather. Here in Hawai'i, we've seen some positive clusters again, however the percentage of infection is still really low. The good news is on Maui we are at 66% completed vaccinations with 79% with at least one dose. This really helps in limiting the spread of COVID infectivity. More recently, news of a South African variant has emerged. The

Omicron variant of COVID has more mutations on its spike protein which may render it more contagious than Delta, more deadly and also be more resistant to current vaccines and natural immunity. It may take weeks for researchers to find out if this is true and if we should be more concerned about this new strain. The swift action was for certain countries to immediately restrict travel to the southern parts of Africa until more information about this variant is known. This watchful vigil for arising strains is part of the new normal of life in an endemic as we live with COVID in our world. Should there be yet another COVID variant that arrives, Maui would hopefully be in a better position than we were in the past year to survive it. Being the tried-and-true warriors of this pandemic, we have survived previous surges. This constant vigilance of COVID infection variants along with continued practice of safety precautions (getting vaccinated, testing, masking and physical distancing) are the new standards of normal we must abide by. Our lives changed drastically twenty-one months ago and we have adapted to this new pandemic to an endemic lifestyle. Hopefully we can find peace and joy again in this new normal. We need to remain grateful for the blessings we do have in our lives, for it is the only way we can continue to persevere amidst our struggles. Have a safe, Happy Holiday Season full of joy, merriment and restoration. ✨ 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.



A Minit Stop employee receives her booster shot during the Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Clinic.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G EVANGELISTA

Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Choir singing during Misa de Gallo mass at St Theresa
PHOTO COURTESY TRIXIE GALAM



Misa de Gallo mass at St. Theresa
PHOTO COURTESY TRIXIE GALAM



Misa de Gallo celebration at St Theresa with Fr Dressel
PHOTO COURTESY TRIXIE GALAM

My Homily for the first Sunday in Advent is from the Gospel of Luke 21:25-28,34-36.

Jesus said to his disciples: There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming a cloud with power and great glory. But when these

signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads. Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

Some of my guilty pleasures at this time of the year are the countless Christmas movies aired on TV. Of course, I like the classics—the ones that have stood the test of time, the ones we watch across generations. It's a wonderful tradition many of us embrace. But it may surprise you to learn I also enjoy all those other Christmas movies—the ones that appear on channels such as Hallmark, Lifetime and ION. You know the ones I'm talking about, right?

Many of us find ourselves spending more time watching these movies

than the classics. And we watch them not because they are cinematically better but for other reasons altogether.

We like them because we know how the story is going to turn out.

Am I right? There is something sort of comforting in these movies, something that helps us feel good about life, love, and family. Those of you who dislike these films feel free to roll your eyes. It's ok. And these films are much different from most films I like. I'm usually the kind of guy who likes things a little grittier, time when Jesus will return in power and great glory.

These words and images can be quite startling, can be puzzling, can be frightening in a certain sense. Not one of us can really know what that day will be like or what we will experience or whether it will take place in our lifetime or long after we are gone. And we're not supposed to know.

But what we are to know is how the story turns out—the ending if you will—the hope and promise and eternal destination of each of our individual stories.

God has a plan for his creation, and each of us gets to share in that plan, gets to participate in its unfolding, gets to travel down a path to a home prepared for us.

And there is deep comfort in that, comfort in knowing and believing and trusting in a God who loves us beyond our wildest dreams. And while there certainly will be surprises along the way, there will certainly be things we couldn't have predicted, even things we never would have chosen—we need not worry about how it will all turn out, need not worry whether we have gotten enough right for God to love us.

He already does. Deeply. Relentlessly. No matter what!

It is that same God we patiently await this Advent, that same God who didn't only come two thousand years ago but also promises to come to us once again, promises to break into our hearts and minds and lives in ways we can't even imagine.

But like most things in the spiritual life, the difference God wants to make in each of our lives will not happen by accident. We need to be

expecting Him.

We need to be longing for Him. We need to be waiting for Him to make the difference He longs to make, need to be alert and attentive to the God who comes to us on His terms, not ours.

And that's why we need this season, to remind us of the incredible God we have and the incredible things He was and is willing to do for us. It's like watching those heartfelt Christmas movies over and over and over again, knowing how they will turn out but still needing to experience the ending again—an ending full of joy, peace, and love—the ending a life of faith assures us.

And so we once again start this holy season with our eyes fixed on two places—on a manger in a small town long ago and on the eternal home awaiting each of us, on the beginning of an incredible story and in the end, on the surprises life delivers and on the destination fixed in our minds and hopes and dreams.

Jesus is coming. Of that we can be sure. And so, may we use this holy season to truly prepare—to open our hearts to our God who wants nothing more than come to us, dwell within us, and change us forever.

I don't know about you, but that's a movie I could watch over and over and over again, and never get tired of it.

As part of the beginning of the Advent celebration each year is the wonderful celebrations of our *Misa De Gallo*.

This is a wonderful way in our culture that I love, this celebration of *Misa De Gallo*! This mass is not only for the Filipino parishioners. It's for everyone! It reflects the Spanish and Portuguese speaking people of the

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.14

Advent and Misa de Gallo

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY KEITH CABILES

signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads. Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

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Many of us find ourselves spending more time watching these movies

a little more realistic. In fact, I love films that are messy, like films that don't wind up with a story with a nice, neat bow tied around it—especially when there is a surprise ending I could never have predicted. I love when that happens.

But not with Christmas movies. I'm totally okay with surprises along the way but not at the end. That wouldn't work for me. I want things to work out. I want love to win out. I want joy and hope and peace to be the feelings I am left with when the credits roll ...

... Just like in life!

Today we begin Advent, begin another Church Year. And each year on this Sunday we are invited to look long-range, look down the road, look at the big picture. We are asked to begin the Church Year by considering the entirety of our lives, the entirety of our personal histories, the entirety of our faith journeys.

And Scripture does that through the New Testament words of Jesus, dramatic images that put before us a



Jesus in the manger at Christ the King
PHOTO COURTESY MANNY BALTAZAR



Manny and Eliza Baltazar with the decoration they prepared for Misa De Gallo at Christ the King
PHOTO COURTESY MANNY BALTAZAR



Fr. Nap at Christ the King after a Misa de Gallo mass
PHOTO COURTESY MANNY BALTAZAR

Caregiver ...

from p. 12

Department of Aging (Kaunoha). It was such a nice service offered to the home bound.

Because Mom was bedridden, changing and cleaning her when the Hospice Staff were not around to help was very challenging for me to do by myself. She was not able to get up and use the commode. It's a good thing Mom's mind was sharp. She was able to let me know when she wanted to move her bowel. I developed a technique to help her by letting her lay down on her side while I use a chopstick to push her feces aside as it came out without touching her skin. Cleaning up was a cinch, no mess! Mom just laughed when I told her that I compare this technique as if I was assisting a woman giving birth. I was there to assist with the baby when it is being born. Whenever I am doing this with her, she always said to me, "Anakko (my daughter), you have already repaid everything I did for you when I took care of you when you were a baby." Tia Walker, an American author who wrote the book, *The Inspired Caregiver*, said "To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honor." Mom's comment truly made me feel I received that highest honor! In addition, Tia wrote "Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know possible." How true it is!

Instead of me cheering her up, she was the one who cheered me up by unceasingly giving me positive strokes, appreciation every single day. She was always thanking God for blessing her a daughter. She was a very good patient. She was not demanding. She was always thinking of me, especially my well-being. She understood well that taking care of her was very challenging especially I was alone. Mom was a wise woman.

When I needed someone to keep Mom company and Hospice Staff was not available, I hired nurses from Hale Makua. These ladies were perfect to be with my Mom for several hours. Not only were they trained nurses caring for elderly but also able to communicate with Mom because they spoke Mom's language, Ilokano. Mom enjoyed their company very much. I thank Marilou Bonilla and April Failano.

St. Joseph Church in Makawao honored Mom as their oldest surviving



Back row (Left to right): Linda Pulido, Nina Balasan, Deacon Patrick Constantino. Middle: Fr. Michael Tolentino, Arsie Anderson
Front: Alejandra Cabalo with Certificate, Lucy Peros.

parishioner. They were planning to honor her with a mass and a reception. Unfortunately, it happened on the first day of lockdown with the COVID-19. It was canceled. Fr. Michael Tolentino (Pastor), Deacon Patrick Constantino and Arsie Anderson, however, came to my house to present her a Certificate of Recognition. Fr. Michael also prayed, blessed and anointed Mom.

The following tips were very helpful to me as a caregiver. Be prepared for change because their moods, attitude and personality changes over time. My Mom got so frustrated because she couldn't do things she used to do. Ask for help when you need it. For me, I asked my friends, my relatives and church parishioners whenever I needed help. Maintain your physical and mental health. This is very important for caregivers so we can provide the highest quality of care to our loved ones. It is very important to foster solid relationships with health care providers. I was always in contact with the Hospice Staff whenever I had questions on Mom's

medication, special needs and when I see some changes on my Mom's physical health. I also call Mom's primary physician every so often, keeping him posted about Mom's condition. My two siblings are living in Honolulu. So it was important to keep them posted about

Mom's condition and also air out my personal feelings, my frustration as a sole caregiver.

As a sole caregiver, I was everything to my Mom: her nurse, her cook, her psychologist, her social worker, her

see CAREGIVER p.20

Leadership ...

from p. 13

three needs of our Filipino community. Due to the high cost of housing, many families are forced to live in one house which can cause a lot of stress and inconvenience. Government needs to continue to partner with the private sector to secure land and provide affordable housing opportunities to help Filipino families achieve the dream of home ownership. Providing affordable housing opportunities will keep many talented and skilled Filipino professionals here which benefit our community over the long term.

Another need of our Filipino community is to work towards improving their socio-economic status thru higher education. Government needs to

work with Filipino community leaders to provide opportunities and encourage Filipinos to seek higher education that will open the doors for higher status and better paying jobs that will elevate their socio-economic status. Providing more higher educational opportunities here for younger Filipino's will also reduce educational expenses for parents.

The third greatest need is for all Filipino groups to collectively work together and put aside differences. If all Filipino groups can unite and work towards goals that can be agreed upon, the Filipino community can become a very effective political force. It is my hope that Filipino elders can mentor and encourage younger Filipinos to take leadership positions and to become involved community issues. ✨

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

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Misa de Gallo at St Joseph Church
PHOTO COURTESY JACOB METZ



Misa de Gallo service at St Joseph with Fr. Michael
PHOTO COURTESY JACOB METZ

world. Let me explain: *Misa De Gallo* (pronounced MEE-sah day GAH-yoh) means “rooster’s mass” in Spanish. Both the Spanish and Portuguese speaking people of the world refer to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve as the rooster’s mass. The Portuguese term for “rooster’s mass,” *missa do galo*, closely resembles its Spanish cousin. This curious name for Midnight Mass comes from a bit of old European folklore. According to a traditional tale Jesus was born at the stroke of midnight.

The task of announcing this miraculous event fell to the roosters. The first rooster fluttered to the roof of the stable and proclaimed in a human voice, “Christ is born!” The second followed, crying out, “In Bethlehem!” Since the rooster was the first creature to call humankind to worship on the eve of Jesus’ birth, people

throughout the Spanish and Portuguese speaking world honor the animal by referring to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve as the “rooster’s mass.”

Perhaps elements of this legend inspired the scheduling of Midnight Mass itself.

Since early medieval times Roman Catholic priests have celebrated three Christmas masses. Rules dating back to the fifth century A.D. ordained the first Christmas mass be celebrated *ad galli cantum*, that is, when the rooster crows.

Few roosters crow as early as midnight. Instead, the belief Jesus was born at midnight determines the hour at which the first mass is held. Normally rooster’s crow about 4 a.m. and *Misa De Gallo* masses starts at 4 a.m.

Roman Catholic churches in the

Philippines offer nine rooster’s masses on the nine nights preceding Christmas. This practice remains from colonial times. In the Philippines and other areas colonized by the Spanish, missionaries instituted a special *novena* for the nine days before Christmas. A *novena* is a prayer service offered on nine consecutive days. The missionaries deemed the novena necessary to impress upon the recent converts the importance of the upcoming feast day. In the Philippines, the Christmas *novena* is called *Simbang Gabi*, a Tagalog phrase which means “night mass.”

The Filipinos also use Spanish terms for these masses, referring to them as *misas de gallo*, “rooster’s masses,” or *misas de aguinaldo* (MEE-sahs day ah-ghee-NAL-doh), which means “Christmas present masses” or “GIFT masses.”

The “gifts” refer to the shepherds’ offerings to the infant Jesus. These nine early morning masses are also celebrated in parts of Central America and the Caribbean.

In the Philippines, the rooster’s masses begin on December 16 and usher in the Christmas season. A festive rather than solemn mood pervades these observances, even though the masses begin at four in the morning. At 4 a.m. church bells ring, marching bands play and fireworks explode, rousing anyone who is still in bed and reminding everyone to attend mass.

Young people who went to parties the night before may stay out long enough to attend the masses before returning home.

After the service many stay to socialize with one another and share the traditional breakfast of *salabat* (ginger tea) and *puto bum-bong* (sweet rice cakes).

Although the last of these nine masses occurs in the early morning hours of December 24, Roman Catholic churches in the Philippines

still offer Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. But the *Misa De Gallo* masses are held at 4 a.m. in the morning because the roosters start crowing that early.

On Maui we have *Misa De Gallo* masses at:

Christ the King Church, Kahului at 5 a.m. *Misa de Gallo*.
Maria Lanakila Church, Lahaina at 5 a.m. *Misa de Gallo*.
St. Anthony Church, Wailuku at 6 p.m. *Simbang Gabi*.
St. Joseph Church, Makawao at 6 a.m. *Misa de Gallo*.
St. Theresa Church, Kihei at 5 a.m. *Misa de Gallo*.

Please join us in faith in welcoming our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas! May He change us and make a difference in our lives! May God bless you and Merry Christmas everyone!

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-four years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty years.

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Misa de Gallo mass at Maria Lanakila Church
PHOTO COURTESY NORA TAKUSHI

Kwento Kwentuhan

Pasko sa Pinas

Christmas is special and unique in the Philippines because ...

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog” | PHOTOS COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

Pasko na naman, o kay tulin ng araw.
Paskong nagdaan tila parang kalian lang ...

If you’re Filipino, chances are you were singing the first two lines of this article as you were reading it. It is one of the most beloved Christmas songs we have in the Philippines. For non-Filipino speaking readers, here is the translation:

It’s Christmas once again, oh how time flies fast!

Previous Christmas seems to just have happened recently ...

Hearing Christmas carols all around Maui these days makes me nostalgic. They make me reminisce Christmas celebrations in the Philippines

What makes Christmas in the Philippines special and unique? Let me share some of them:

1. Longer Christmas Season - For the most part, celebrating Christmas starts in September. Christmas season starts as soon as the first BER months start. BER months? What are BER months you might ask. Well, they are the months ending in BER ... SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER and DecemBER. It’s sort of a countdown leading to Christmas and New Year.

Here in the United States, the people are “split.” There are those who celebrate earlier (most likely Filipinos or part Filipinos 😊) and there are those who adamantly oppose any Christmas celebration until after Thanksgiving. And yes, part of the reason the Christmas season seems to be shorter in the U.S. is because here in the U.S. we celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving pri-

or to Christmas.

2. Christmas Caroling - “Sa may bahay ang aming bati, Merry Christmas na malualhati ...”

This is another common Filipino Christmas song, often sung during caroling. Christmas Caroling is a beloved tradition in the Philippines. This usually starts on December 16 (same as the *Simbang Gabi* which we will discuss later), it is a Christmas tradition for groups of people (often the neighborhood kids) to gather and go around neighborhood singing Christmas Carols in front of each home. In return, the owners of the home gives money—sometimes a gift or food—but the most common is money. The kids’ musical instruments are a homemade tambourine—out of soda caps—and homemade maracas and drums.

For me, this is one of the Filipino Christmas traditions I miss while living here in the U.S. I miss hearing the voices of children singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” “*Feliz Navidad*” and the “Thank you” song after we give them the money. I miss the laughter of the kids, especially when they mischievously sing the “*Thank you, ang babarat ninyo*” song for those who don’t give money. You Filipinos remember that, right?

In addition to Christmas Carols, the start of the celebration also lines up with beloved Christmas songs like Jose Marie Chan’s “Christmas in our Hearts” and Gary Valenciano’s “*Pasko na Santa ko.*”

3. *Simbang Gabi* - Also known as *Misa De Gallo*, *Simbang Gabi* is



Parols for sale are a common sight during the “ber” months in the Philippines.

PHOTO: KEITH BACONGCO - CREATIVE COMMONS WIKIPEDIA



A Christmas ornament is shown here with a twist—a jeepney filled with gifts.

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

one of the oldest Christmas traditions in the Philippines. People wake at dawn and attend mass at their local churches as early as 4 a.m.! *Simbang Gabi* is equivalent to celebrating Advent here in the U.S. It is a series of early masses starting December 16 to December 24th which is Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve Mass is held at 12 midnight instead of 4 a.m. This is to celebrate Christ’s birth in the middle of the night. After the Christmas Eve mass, families and friends gather for *Noche Buena*.

4. *Noche Buena* and Filipino Christmas Food - *Noche Buena* is a dinner feast after the Christmas Eve Service. Yes, we eat at midnight. Food served during the *Noche Buena* are special. It’s a big celebration with special cuisines like *lechon* (roasted pig), *Queso de Bola* and Christmas ham and many more special side dishes and desserts like *halaya* (*ube*) and *leche flan*. (This is a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner here in the U.S.) Now prior to *Noche Buena*, there are also traditional Christmas Filipino Foods such as *bibingka* and *puto bumbong*.

5. *Parol* and other Christmas Decorations. There is no shortage of Christmas decorations in the Philippines including Christmas Trees, Santa Claus, *Belen* (Nativity Scene) but one thing that stands out and is unique to the Philippines are the *parols*. *Parols*



A modern parol hangs at The Fil-Am Voice office in Wailuku.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

are Christmas lanterns. Traditionally made with colorful paper and bamboo sticks shaped like a five-pointed star. Displaying *parols* in the homes, schools, business establishments and streets signifies the spirit of Christmas. *Parols* now come in many shapes and sizes.

There are many more reasons that make Christmas in the Philippines special and unique to share but I will stop here for now. For those of us who have children who are born in the U.S. and the children have not been in the Philippines and have not experienced Christmas in the Philippines, it is important we impart and continue these traditions in our homes. What Christmas Filipino traditions do you continue here in America?

From all of us at The Fil-Am Voice, *Maligayang Pasko* at Manigong Bagong Taon! ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading

Aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About 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.



Arthur Latayada displays one of his home-made parols.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



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Caregiver ...

from p. 17

bather, her feeder, her dentures cleaner. The list is endless. Caregiver burnout, I certainly experienced it! My Mom could sense when I was cranky, she knew I was having Caregiving burnout. Mom was a wise woman. That's when she gave me positive strokes. There was never a day she didn't thank me for doing what I was doing for her. That's how I survived physically, mentally and emotionally. My faith in God also helped me. I always remember what God said in scripture "Don't be afraid, I am with you always." Mom also believed in this too.

Since Mom was able to communicate with me, she was able to share with me the things she would like me to do when the good Lord was ready to take her. It was such a beautiful natural conversation between the two of us. She was able to tell me she wanted to be buried with my Dad. She wanted to wear a blue dress and a church veil. She told me she shouldn't wear any jewelry. I followed everything she said. When the time came, funeral preparation was very easy to do.

Mom passed away on a very significant date, especially to us Catholics. She passed away peacefully on September 8, 2021, on our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday. I would like to believe Mom went to attend Mama Mary's birthday party in heaven. She

was 101 years, one month, and one day old when she died. Her burial date was also significant. It was the Feast of the Angels.

I felt very fulfilled in taking care of my Mom singlehandedly during her last days of life on earth knowing I have done my best of duty and obligation as a daughter. I feel sorrow and joy can be side by side. I was sad Mom is no longer here physically but I felt joy in my heart she is now in heaven face to face with the Lord.

First Lady Rosalyn Carter, wife of the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter once said: "There are only four kinds of people in the world: Those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need a caregiver." Which one are you?

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



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed...

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

(LUKE 2: 1, 3-14 KJV)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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