



**Holidays:  
A Time for  
Feasting**  
Fil-Am Voice  
provides places to  
chow for the holidays.  
  
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brings  
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# FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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**inside**



Winter viral ‘tridemic’ and  
a fond farewell.  
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Nothing short of a miracle,  
Dcn. Pulido pulls through  
from death to life.  
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Successful scholarship  
fundraiser honors ‘Aggie.’  
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## Ready to Lead: Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR



Newly  
Elected  
Mayor  
Richard  
Bissen is  
ready to  
Lead Maui  
County  
PHOTO:  
ALFREDO G.  
EVANGELISTA

**C**ollaborative. Team approach. Open to suggestions. Those are the words Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen used to describe his leadership style as he prepares to take over the reigns as the ninth Mayor of the County of Maui on January 2, 2023. Bissen ran a bit late for his interview at Koho’s as he was meeting with Kahului Councilmember Tasha Kama. In the primary, Kama’s opponent was Bissen’s nephew, Buddy Nobriga. But from my vantage point, and from my brief conversation with Kama while Bissen headed to the bathroom, the meeting between Bissen and Kama went well. The Mayor-in-waiting, still the lanky St. Anthony athlete,

## The Holiday Season Means It’s Time to Eat!

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | PHOTOS: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

**I** know. I know. We just stuffed ourselves during Thanksgiving (even though it rained hard, we still had a feast) and you’re still talking about eating? Well, yeah. With Christmas in a few days and New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day following, we gotta eat, right? And there’s all those football games in between and following thereafter. For Filipinos throughout the world, what’s a celebration without a *lechon*? But hold on. With the recent closing of Plantation Grindz and Pinoy Food Mart, it appears our *lechon* options this holiday season will be severely limited. Paradise Supermart is still a popular *lechon* place but you should hurry to place your order.



Lechon from Paradise Supermart in Kahului.  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

see FEASTING p.3

**FREE**





Bissen—ready to lead on day one—gives a thumbs-up as he leaves the Kalana O Maui County Building.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD BISSEN

diverse. As of the date of the interview on December 7, Bissen said he hadn't seen who had applied for the various positions so he could not commit to whether there would be any cabinet members of Filipino ancestry as it depended on who applied. "The first interviews have started today. I have an executive review team and an administrative review team. The executive review team is reviewing the twelve directors and the twelve deputies. The administrative hiring team—as you may know there are approximately fifty positions in the Mayor's office—will be reviewing people interested in appointed positions that are not directors."

A 1979 graduate of St. Anthony High School, a 1983 graduate of Santa Clara University (the "real SC," he explains to me twenty-five minutes into the interview), and a 1986 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Bissen has worked for a county, the state and the Judiciary. Of the eight Mayoral candidates in the primary, Bissen suggests he had the most comprehensive experience in government, having worked in a County department (Prosecutor's Office under several Mayors), two State departments (Attorney General's Office and Public Safety Department under Governor Linda Lingle) and in the Judiciary. "I think I have a pretty good awareness of how the system operates but we're all a bunch of individuals trying to plan, work together so I think I understand compromise, diplomacy. As a Judge, I was pretty much a decision maker so I understand I was elected to make decisions, set policy, strategy and implementation. I'm looking forward to that."

Bissen recalls serving with presumptive Council Chair Alice Lee. "We served together as cabinet members. She was housing [and human concerns] I believe under Kimo Apana when I was the Prosecuting Attorney."

While serving as a Circuit Court Judge from 2005 to 2021, Bissen was prohibited from engaging in politics. "I think it's like any other relationship," he responded when asked how he expected to develop a relationship with the Council. "I've testified before the Council in my previous position at the Prosecutor's office. I've testified at the State legislature in different capacities so I understand their function. They want information from me to do their job. I plan on having a respectful relationship with them; obviously a professional relationship with them. I think I have performed in a professional manner throughout my career. I don't expect that to change but I think it will be mutual. I don't have any personal relationships with the people on the Council. I know some longer than others. I've worked with some in the community in my previous positions. I'm looking forward to working with the Council."

Bissen recognizes his role as Mayor will be "a lot different" than his role as a Judge. He's okay with not having the final say. "I understand my role. I wasn't always a Judge. I was a Director in a department so I know what's it like to testify before the Council. I know what it's like to deal with the unions for employees. I know what it's like to hire employees, to prepare

see BISSEN p.6

## Bissen ...

from p. 1

and possible more reserved than you would expect from a guy who plays music gigs on the side-- the lingering vestige of two decades on the circuit court bench—was dressed in a neatly pressed Aloha Shirt. He looked at me directly and I almost called him, "Your Honor." (I don't recall ever appearing before him in court but I think at the early stage of my legal career, he was a law clerk for the late Richard Komo for a trial in which I was the second chair.)

"The key is to surround yourself with good people and make it an inviting situation," Bissen, a retired Chief Judge, explains. Bissen is preparing to appoint his team of Directors and Deputy Directors as well as his staff. Bissen's first announcement on December 12 was to name retired Deputy Police Chief Keku Akana as Managing Director. (Back in high school, Keku and I served as acolytes at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku. Bissen himself was a former altar boy.)

Bissen counts twelve directors who will need Council approval and twelve deputy directors who will not need Council approval. (Four directors are appointed by a county commission.) Bissen explains the charter amendment with a new Housing department will not be effective until 2024. "[The Council will] have to fund it, create the positions, kind of like the Department of Agriculture," he noted.

"Of course," said Bissen, when asked if his cabinet will be ethnically



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ABOVE: Ethan Evangelista and Edward Evangelista dressing a pig for a lechon in the backyard.



RIGHT: Sisig salmon at Tante's Island Cuisine.



RIGHT: Sashimi at Tiffany's.



LEFT: Lechon by Tante Urban and Victor Campos at the Annual Barrio Fiesta.



LEFT: Kalbi at Tiffany's in Wailuku.



Sizzling NY steak at Tante's Island Cuisine.

## Feasting ...

from p. 1

Another option may be the finally opened Paukūkalo Mini Mart owned by Randy Cruz of Randy's Catering. It seems, however, his Mini Mart is transitioning to a bakery called Paukūkalo Sweets and Treats but will continue his street food grilling (his bbq *paltat* is so *ono*!) Randy still has his catering business so he might do a *lechon* for you for the holidays.

Of course, you can try and do your own back yard lechon. My nephew Ed with the help of his son Ethan agreed to help baptize my new rotisserie during the labor day weekend. The *lechon*

was so *ono*—the only problem was we misjudged how long it would take to dress the pig (it was really hard without the butcher's needle) and how long it would take to cook. Now we know that you can't expect to have the *lechon* ready for lunch if you place it over the fire at 10 a.m.; it will be ready by dinner, however.

(Remember at the Barrio Fiesta how the *lechon* demonstration also took longer than expected? Tante Urban who sponsored the *lechon* demonstration and Victor Campos who oversaw the *lechon* cooking worked hard to get it ready to taste by late afternoon but it wasn't quite ready until later that evening.)

With all the changes in the Filipino-see FEASTING next page



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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Members of the newly formed Junior Chamber International Maui.  
PHOTO COURTESY RICK NAVA

## We Look Forward to a Brighter Future with Unity and Common Purpose

Now the elections are finally over, both nationally and locally, we all can breathe a sigh of relief that extreme policies and extremist brand of politics that were being advanced by some extremist candidates were rejected. We are so thankful our American experiment of democracy prevails. Hallelujah big Amen! At the local level on Maui Nui, candidates who supported some of these extreme policies were defeated and rejected by the voters. And it's no surprise moderate candidates with commonsense policies were elected. As we begin to accept the results from the voters, it is time to look forward to a new beginning. The disappointments gradually fade as hope once again invites us to look instead to what the future has in store. Whatever our personal thoughts might be, we agree our best response is to give support for action which will serve the greater good to address the

many challenges facing our community. Let's all pray for our new leaders and give them our full support to respond to their calling to serve with passion and compassion.

In response to the *Fil-Am Voice* editorial regarding our next generation of young Filipino leaders, concerned representatives from various Maui Filipino organizations are meeting to address the ways we can train, encourage, inspire and support our young Maui Filipino American youth to be our next generation of leaders.

One shining hope arrived unexpectedly when a group of young leaders from the Filipino Jaycees of Honolulu joined us one Saturday morning. In our second meeting to discuss the challenge of growing future leaders, they voiced the PowerPoint presentation explaining what they are doing to face this same challenge. Enthusiasm and passion inspired

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



Lau-lau at Kō.



Salmon with brussel sprouts at Fond.  
PHOTO COURTESY ELIZA VASQUEZ

## Feasting ...

from p. 3

owned restaurants/fast food chains, perhaps it's a good time to check in with some of the recent changes.

In Wailuku, Top Chef Sheldon Simeon and wife Janice purchased Tiffany's from the Orite family. (Howard Orite is my high school classmate.) Although it's not yet open for lunch during the weekdays, when you go there, you can still have the lychee Margaritas as well as old favorites such as the *kal bi*, *chow fun* and but-terfish.

If you're just looking for Filipino fast food in Wailuku, you can check out the hot food items at Asian Mart, Golden Coin, and CAA Market Place.

In Kahului, Tante's Island Cuisine remains open under the ownership of Tante and Tellie Urban. The new owners of Maui Seaside Hotel where the restaurant is located have plans to renovate and make the hotel as part of the Hilton chain. Meanwhile the local and Filipino food is still *ono*. My favorites are the off the menu specials such as *sisig* salmon with lettuce wraps, sizzling New York steak, and sizzling liver. *Masarap!* (Oh yeah, the Mā'alaea restaurant is no longer owned by Tante and Tellie.)



Chicken Joy from Jollibee.

(Unfortunately, Dana Santanibez Pastula's new Café O'Lei at the old Hideaways spot is not scheduled to open until sometime in 2023; after eight months, they're still waiting for the permits to issue.)

If you're looking for Filipino fast food in Kahului, you can check out the hot food items at Paradise Supermart, owned by Roger and Tina Santos.

Tin Roof in Kahului, owned by Sheldon and Janice Simeon also has some Filipino offerings.

Although Cupie's in Kahului does not feature a Filipino menu (except for the ube shakes which is delicious), it's owned by Ron Daniels and his wife Emma Escopete Mennel. It's a real Drive-In; you drive and park in one of the stalls and order your food while you're in your vehicle; your food is then brought to your vehicle.

And yes, for you fried chicken aficionados, there's always Jollibee in Kahului.

If you venture out to Wailea, you don't want to miss Kō's where Chef Jonathan Pasion is now its Executive Chef.

On the west side, three-time Master P-Noy Chef Joey Macadangdang has three restaurants which serve Filipino food: Joey's Kitchen in Whaler's Village, Joey's Kitchen in Nāpili and Macadangdang in Lahaina. At Joey's Kitchen Nāpili, you have to try his crispy *pata* and if available, his *malunggay pansit*. At Macadangdang, which opened a year ago, my favorite dishes are the *banga banga* sampler, the *bisstek*, and the *laing*. Of course the *sashimi* is also very fresh. (Chef Macadangdang has also been teasing with some Facebook posts about his upcoming new restaurant in Kahului called *Balay Pata* so stay tuned.)

A new restaurant in Lahaina which recently opened is Duck Kine, owned see FEASTING p.9



Philip Sabado samples the sisig at Tante's Island Cuisine.



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Cecilia Suyat Marshall, wife to Thurgood with family, as Marshall is sworn-in as Solicitor General, Aug. 24, 1965.  
PHOTO: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thurgood\\_Marshall\\_and\\_family,\\_1965.png#filelinks](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thurgood_Marshall_and_family,_1965.png#filelinks)



Darolyn Hatsuko Lendio Heim (center with red lei) after her confirmation hearings.  
PHOTO COURTESY HAWAII STATE SENATE

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# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET Transitions

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Darolyn Hatsuko Lendio Heim (far right) during the services for the late Justice Mario Ramil, along with Justice Simeon R. Acoba (second from right) and current Judge William Domingo (third from right) in 2017.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

Darolyn after meeting with Senator Gil Keith-Agaran prior to her confirmation hearings in 2017.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

Cecilia Suyat Marshall, Thurgood Marshall's widow passed away on November 22, 2022. Born in Pu'unēnē, Suyat was sent to live with maternal relatives in New York City where she found a job working for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She would marry the future Supreme Court Justice in 1955, following the death of his first wife, and would be by his side for much of the Civil Rights era and his service as the first Black member of the United States Supreme Court.

I never met her but heard about her from her nephew Stanley Suyat who worked at the Carlsmith Ball law firm when I was a young lawyer. It always amazed me someone from Maui played a part in pivotal moments in U.S. history. Mrs. Marshall apparently understood the dream and the struggle never ends—that we all live out our lives trying to make things better for ourselves, our fami-

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Wincy Perez



Alexis Vilorio



Rynn Vilorio



Czerena Bayle

As December strolls into the present, it seems Santa isn't the only person coming into town. For most out-of-state college students, December's winter break is the optimal time for the long-awaited trip back home. With so many of Hawai'i's key elements and normals absent in the mainland setting, what are out-of-state students most excited for in returning home?

"I am most excited for the warmer weather," admits **Wincy Perez**, a freshman at the University of Minnesota. Like Wincy, many Hawai'i students searched for a change of setting, yearning to experience a colorful fall and snowy winter. It seems, however, Hawai'i's landscape can't be beat. "I could always appreciate the sights of buildings around me but you can't beat the view of the West Maui Mountains or the beaches," expresses Win-

# Google®

## Is Not Everything ...

### The Return of Out of Town College Students

Jazmyne Faith Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

cy. **Alexis Vilorio**, a sophomore at Stanford University, agrees. "Although I do enjoy watching the leaves turn orange and fall on the mainland, I can't help but be excited to step foot back into the ever-shining Maui sun and relish the feeling of a warm Hawaiian

Christmas."

With a change of setting follows a change in food. Based on location, not everywhere has fresh seafood, açai bowls and fruit growing in the backyard. Alexis seemed to notice this as she exclaims, "The first thing I'm doing when I get back home is making a stop at the food trucks to grab myself an açai bowl with poi and lilikoi butter!" **Rynn Vilorio**, a freshman at Grand Canyon University, has a similar agenda in mind as she explains, "The very first thing I'm doing as soon as I get home is eating all my favorite local foods! On a daily basis, I crave lau lau, kalua pig, fresh poke, li hing lemon peel gummies—the list goes on and on." Although there are new foods and Hawai'i alternates in the mainland, "Food always tastes better when you're home," Alexis happily concludes.

"The thing I miss the most about Maui is the people," Rynn reveals. Undoubtedly, the people one chooses to surround themselves with significantly contribute to a personal definition of normal. Rynn explains how her family formed a weekly routine. "My family would always do weekly cook outs and everybody would come together to eat and simply have a good time." Like Rynn, **Czerena Bayle**, a sophomore at Chapman University, excitedly

waits "to spend Christmas with my family. I'm looking forward to my family's Christmas Eve dinner—a mouthwatering feast, festive games, celebrating my cousin's birthday and attending midnight mass." As a new "normal" is formed through a new environment, Rynn notices, "These little realizations just make me so much more thankful that I was raised the way that I was, surrounded by great people."

An individual's location greatly contributes to their mood, mindset and growth, as it establishes a new routine and expectation. Although out-of-state students tend to embrace the new opportunities and surroundings of their new schools, it seems Hawai'i will always have a special place in their hearts; Rynn sums it all: "There's something about missing something so badly, then being able to experience it all over again that makes me extremely excited about being back home." ✨

**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 **Jazmyne Faith Vilorio**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is a member of SaberScribes (Maui High's journalism club), Historian of the Video Club and Team Captain of Blue Thunder, Maui High's Robotics club. Jazmyne is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, focusing on videography and photography. In her free time, she sews and refashions old clothes, journals, edits photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. She is the daughter of Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Vilorio.



## CONGRATULATIONS

MAHALO TO OUR TEAM FOR PUTTING PATIENTS & SAFETY FIRST!

Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC) is, once again, nationally recognized with an 'A' Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade! The "A" recognizes our high standards and achievements in outstanding patient safety with MMMC among one of three hospitals in Hawaii to receive the "A" Grade for both spring and fall 2022. This honor is a testament to the commitment and excellence of our Maui Health 'ohana who work every day to provide safe, quality care for every patient, every time.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is an elite designation from The Leapfrog Group, a national, independent watchdog that sets the highest standards for patient safety in the United States. For more information, visit [www.hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org).

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

#WEAREMAUIHEALTH | [mauihealth.org](http://mauihealth.org)



## Bissen ...

from p. 2

a budget, to defend your budget at the Council. I know a lot of the back of the house."

As Mayor, Bissen will also need to develop his relationships with Maui's state legislators and Hawai'i's congressional delegation. "I plan on having a very close relationship with our state legislators. I want to have regular meetings with them; maybe monthly meetings—when they're on Maui, talk to them about issues important to our

County."

Bissen noted how U.S. Senator Brian Schatz was very gracious in reaching out to him after the general election. (Bissen's youngest daughter was a previous intern for Schatz.) "I plan to listen and learn as I have in every role that I have taken up until now as I've known my place in the structure." Bissen jokes that as the youngest child in the family, he learned how to behave and when it was his turn to speak or listen. He recounted how his elder siblings would "straighten him up" and noted they were better athletes.

see BISSEN p.13



# Welcoming the Holiday Season Amidst a Tri-Demic

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

Hard to believe it is the Holiday Season once again and soon the end of 2022. The year has gone by so fast. The normalcy of life truly has come back as this is the first Holiday season since 2020 when we have no more masking mandates in Hawai'i. Travel testing, vaccination card requirements, social distancing recommendations and group gathering protocols all seem so long ago.

The Holiday Season also brings us the cold season. It has been two years since we had the familiar sneezes and sore throats because our safety measures shielded us from the various viruses which hit us each winter.

Nationwide, the flu season hit us hard and early, and yet another winter surge in COVID-19 cases is expected. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) also hit us hard and early affecting children under two but also causing severe illnesses in the elderly over 65 years old and the immunocompromised. Moderate wheezing, cough, fever and decreased appetite distinguish RSV from a common cold. Natural immunity is helpful after an infection of RSV but it is short lived and RSV infections can occur more than once in a season. This winter season is being called a "tri-demic" because there is a fast rise in patients battling the flu, RSV and/or COVID-19. All three viruses can lead to respiratory distress and hospitalization, especially in children under two or those elderly, unvaccinated, with asthma or other health issues. We've already seen a large number of ER visits and hospitalizations this last month.

How can you tell the difference between a common cold, flu and COVID? The chart shown (courtesy of Kaiser Permanente) lays out the most common symptoms of a cold, the flu, and COVID-19.

These are just three of the many types of viruses and their variants we see each year. We only have tests for COVID, influenza and RSV. The most important thing is to know what to do if you feel sick with one of these viruses.

## What to do if you feel sick

If you start to feel symptoms of a respiratory infection, taking a COVID Home Antigen Test is the quickest and easiest way to rule out a coronavirus infection and make sure you're not putting others at risk. If your test result is positive, stay home, isolate and contact your health care provider's office if you need guidance or support. If your result is negative, retest 24 to 48 hours after your first test. Currently

potential need for them to be hospitalized. But stay home if you feel sick to avoid spreading your illness to others. Only come back to work or social events when you have minimal or no symptoms. The treatments are mostly supportive and medications are given to treat symptoms. If you get the flu, a prescription medication called Tamiflu may shorten the duration of infection and reduce symptoms. Currently there is no similar antiviral treatment regimen for RSV.

For most healthy people, diseases such as the flu, COVID-19 and RSV will go away on their own. Call your medical provider's advice line or use

We must take care of ourselves and use common sense during this winter season. Often times we push ourselves with our attendance at social gatherings, busy Holiday shopping and festive preparations. We forget to take care of our own needs. Stay home and recover if you are feeling sick. As always, remember to wash your hands (or use sanitizers), use masks (which can be hard to do) and stay distanced because these three principles keep us safe from getting sick. Pay attention to your body's signals, eat healthily and get your rest.

Finally, I want to thank all the readers of *Iti Salunat Yo!* for allowing me to write about the health issues facing our Maui Filipino community. I will be transitioning to a new chapter in life and moving to California to be closer to family. The new president of Filipino Association of Maui Doctors (FAMD) is Arleen Ricalde, MD and she will continue to contribute health related articles to *The Fil-Am Voice*. It has been a pleasure to have lived on Maui for the last fifteen years and I am grateful to have served as a physician in such a wonderful and strong Filipino community. 🌟



**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.

*The Fil-Am Voice* thanks Dr. Buntuyan for his service to the people of Maui and *The Fil-Am Voice* and wishes him the very best as he transitions to California to be closer to his family. Aloha and Mabuhay!

Cold, Flu, or COVID-19 • Know the Symptoms			
Signs and Symptoms*	Cold	Flu	COVID-19
Symptom onset	Gradual	Sudden	Gradual
Muscle and body aches	Slight	Common	Sometimes
Cough	Sometimes	Common	Common
Diarrhea	Rare	Sometimes	Sometimes
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Common	Common
Fever over 100 degrees	Rare	Common	Common
Loss of taste or smell	Rare	Rare	Sometimes
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Rare	Rare	Common
Runny or stuffy nose	Common	Common	Common
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Common	Common
Headache	Rare	Common	Common
*Chart does not include all possible symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms may change with new variants and depending on vaccination status.			

Paxlovid is the best oral treatment for those infected with COVID and who meet eligibility criteria. Molnupiravir oral treatment and remdesivir intravenous infusions are two other COVID treatments but neither are as effective or readily available. Because of the latest Omicron subvariant, monoclonal antibody treatments are no longer working and thus no longer utilized.

Most patients do not need to be tested for flu or RSV unless there is a

virtual care options (emails or video visits) to avoid overcrowding in clinics and to limit your exposure. If you need to see a provider, seek medical care at your healthcare provider's office, urgent care centers or an ER if symptoms are severe.

If your child is having severe breathing problems or you see their skin or fingernails have a bluish color due to a lack of oxygen, do not hesitate to go to an emergency department or call 911.





New House Finance Chair Kyle Yamashita and House Housing Chair Troy Hashimoto with affordable housing developer Linda Schatz and Central Maui Senator Gil Keith-Agaran.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

## Transitions ...

from p. 5

Elections in many ways bring both hope and disappointment. December-January marks the transition from one administration and legislature/council to another.

Josh Green and Sylvia Luke were sworn in on the first Monday in December, with speeches making some big promises (and supposedly the money to support fulfilling some of those goals). The new Lt. Gov couldn't help commenting in both her inaugural and gala remarks about her change in status from influential and nearly omnipotent legislator (as House Finance chair) to the person whose main job is to keep breathing in the event the Governor is out of town. In contrast, Green, a former rural emergency room physician, moves up from Luke's new job to lord of all he surveys from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. That might even make up for the long-deserved season his Pittsburgh Steelers are having.

On Maui, the voters opted to change County administrations—the fourth time since Linda Lingle that an incumbent Mayor was shown the door after only four years. If there's

a message, Richard Bissen (see his interview in this issue) will need to flesh out his Kama'aina Prosperity quicker than a Drug Court session (and certainly take credit for projects that may have started in the Arakawa or Victorino years that finally get built and opened during his time on the Ninth Floor).

On the Maui County Council, newcomers Tom Cook and Nohe U'u-Hodgins appear to be in a new working majority, depending on the outcome of a challenge to Council Chair Alice Lee's re-election win. Residents will certainly watch to see whether this new Council delivers more housing truly affordable for local residents (and not just the lucky ones who qualify for subsidized homes under Housing and Urban Development standards).

The voters also decided to approve some Charter amendments



Sen. Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo G. Evangelista.

PHOTO: GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

which will add some new County agencies and policies. The people spoke and Mayor Bissen and the Council will need to implement those changes.

***“The biggest transition I’m watching for is for the Bengals to finally win a Super Bowl. Cleveland, Detroit, Jacksonville and Houston have never even played in the Super Bowl. But I think the Bengals are due as the Year of the Tiger comes to a close.”***

— GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

The November elections also brought changes for the Maui legislative delegation. After a decade laboring in relative obscurity while quietly directing massive state funding for projects in his upcountry community, Kyle Yamashita is now the new House Finance Chair. Yamashita will shape the State Budget, with the opportunity to put his stamp on spending priorities. The three new Maui Nui legislators in the Valley Isle delegation all received committee vice-chair slots: Mahina Poepoe (Water & Land), Terez Amato (Human Services) and Elle Cochran (Energy & Environmental Protection).

Kahului lawmaker Justin Woodson will continue as House Education chair. South Maui's Amato will need to deal with opening Kūlanihāko'i High School if the Departments of Education and Transportation persist in resisting the Land Use Commission overpass/underpass condition for the school development and convince other legislators (mainly from off-Maui) money should be allocated for that cost rather than funding their own community priorities.

Wailuku representative Troy Hashimoto moves up to chair the Housing committee so he will consider the details for Green's ambitious plans, and any housing planks supporting Kama'aina Prosperity in Maui Nui.

In the Senate, Angus McKelvey will honcho Government Operations (where he will have to consider the nomination of former Maui Managing Director Keith Regan as State comptrol-

ler). Regan was Chief Financial Officer at the Hawai'i Tourism Authority but moved over to a regular state department slot. As Comptroller, he will manage the Department of Accounting and General Services which is responsible for most public works projects that don't involve airports, highways or harbors.

Lynn DeCoite, one of the only real farmers in the Legislature, will now chair Energy, Economic Development and Tourism. DeCoite will have the daunting challenge of fostering expanded economic opportunities beyond the visitor industry, defense spending and construction.

But the biggest transition I'm watching for is the Bengals to finally win a Super Bowl. Cincinnati represented the AFC in Super Bowl XVI (1982), XXIII (1989) and LVI (2022). The Queen City boys lost all three. New England and Pittsburgh both won six titles. The Patriots, however, actually lost five Super Bowls (Denver matches New England as the biggest losers, only winning three of the eight games it played in). Dallas won five Super Bowls but lost as many as the Bengals (San Francisco won five titles, including two against Cincinnati), and so have Miami (2–3) and the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams (2–3). (Minnesota and Buffalo are also winless, both losing four times, while Carolina and Atlanta lost two, and San Diego/Los Angeles Chargers, Tennessee, and Arizona Cardinals have lost their only appearances). Cleveland, Detroit, Jacksonville and Houston have never even played in the Super Bowl. But I think the Bengals are due as the Year of the Tiger comes to a close.

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran**

*practices law in Wailuku. He currently is the State Senator for Central Maui. He's a Bengals fan because of Ken Anderson, Isaac Curtis, Bob Trumpy and Bill Walsh's Mid-*



*west Offense.*

## From the Editor's Desk | Cont'd from p. 4

all to encourage our Maui youth to also form a Jaycees Maui organization. Because the age range is 18 – 40, it helped participants to identify who on Maui could be invited to become charter members. The connection to an international and established entity was viewed as a welcome plus, giving a solid foundation to build on, as well as experienced mentors to help jumpstart the process. We are very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the participants at these meetings and we hope our future will be in the good hands of our next generation of young Filipino leaders.

We are again in the holiday

season. Families are arranging to spend time together, many trying to make up for the interruptions caused by the pandemic. As we acknowledge the new layers of requirements for travel, there is more careful preparation for visits, whether as guests or hosts. The staff of *Fil-Am Voice* wishes all our readers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God richly bless you and your 'ohana during the holiday season! ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*  
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Ti Biag ken Pammati
"Life and Faith"

Deacon
Cornelio
Pulido



A Christmas Miracle

Called by God to Serve His Country and Church
and Experience His Miracle!

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY DEACON PULIDO 'OHANA

Deacon Cornelio Pulido was born in the town of Pangasinan, Philippines to Prudencio and Marcelina Pulido on September 16, 1946. Deacon Cornelio worked at HC&S Company for twenty-seven years as a Shop Superintendent and at Maui Pineapple Company as a machinist. His parents came here as Sakadas in the 1940s to work on the plantation.

He served in the Army National Guard for twenty-one years and was on active duty in Korea for two years. He retired from the Army National Guard as a Sergeant First Class. Thank you, Deacon Cornelio for your service.

Cornelio was ordained as a Deacon on July 13, 2001 and still is assigned to Christ the King Church for twenty-one years. We are very proud to have served on the Core Team during Deacon Cornelio's Diaconate Formation. At this time, I'm proud to present Deacon Cornelio and his wife Linda's Miracle Story.

Cornelio: Twice a year we visit our children in Washington ... summers and winters. During the summers we go camping, fishing, crabbing and pedal boarding. About twice a week we go as a family to my son's cabin which is only twenty minutes from Mount Baker, a snowy area. It's about 25-30 miles to Vancouver, Canada. All of them go snowboarding and skiing, except for Kai who is five years old. It is our job, my wife and I, to watch him.

On December 16, 2021, we attended the first Misa de Gallo at Christ the King and left for Seattle. On December 17, we arrived in Seattle. After we got off the plane,

we took the tram to the luggage area. There, after we got off the tram, is where I fell, according to my wife. The last thing I remember is riding the tram.

According to my wife, someone asked if I'm having a seizure. One of the leader groups and their companions started praying for me.

Linda: After they said that, they kept him in prayer. Thank God, so many in the medical field did CPR



Sergeant First Class
Cornelio Pulido who
served our Country in
the Army National Guard.

right away. Security Police put me to sit close by and comforted me and stayed with me all the time. Then I called my son Stephen who was waiting at the parking lot to pick us up. When the security heard, he told Stephen to stay put and he would pick him up. When my son and the security police arrived at the area, Cornelio was already crowded with medical people, so they placed a barricade around him. Stephen went to look for his dad but they would not let him until he said he is the son and a doctor. He couldn't do much because they were all trying to revive him, so he came to me and later he saw a medical person running with the oxygen and he said that's the sign of reviving him after about forty-five minutes.

My son stayed with me to comfort me until they took us to the nearest hospital, Saint Anne's, by ambulance. Cornelio stayed there for two and a half months. Two months in ICU in a coma and on life support. They later moved him to another room close to the ICU and he stayed there for another two weeks. Two months later, he woke up and started talking, so we used ZOOM to talk and to see him. He was in the ICU about two or three days when

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.14



Malungay Pancit
at Joey's Kitchen Napili.

RIGHT: Roast duck at Duck Kine.



LEFT: Seafood Sinigang at
Joey's Kitchen Napili.

RIGHT: The crispy pata
at Joeys Kitchen Napili.



LEFT: The Kau Kau Tin special
at Macadangdang.

Feasting ...

from p. 4

by Chef Alvin Savella also known as the Kitchen Assassin. Many of his dishes feature duck-roast duck, duck in a bun, and duck soup, to name a few.

Fond owned by Chef Jojo Vasquez in Nāpili features an Asian fusion cuisine.

Of course, there's a variety of food trucks featuring Filipino foods such as Vidad's in Kihei, Kusina Ni Jayboy Lahaina, and Dolish in Wailuku. I'm sure there's more.

And yes, the L&L franchise chain owned by Filipino entrepreneur Eddie Flores, Jr. is still going strong. My favorite L&L franchise is the one in Maui Marketplace—they give a generous helping of their deep fried shrimp.

So there you have it. While it may be a little late too get your lechon, you

can still go out and eat at one of the many Filipino owned restaurants. Or you can probably order some take-out from them. If you're going solo (or on a casual date), you can always try one of the many food trucks.

Alfredo G. Evangelista loves to eat but is on the keto diet. Earlier this year, he and his wife Basilia celebrated the 70th anniversary of L&L with Eddie Flores, Jr., the Chairman of the Board of L&L Franchises.





Community... In Action



Binhi At Ani's Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is in March. Don't wait to sign up for this sell-out opportunity to help high school graduates with their transition to college.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

Binhi At Ani's Feeding Program can always use a helping hand. Please sign up to volunteer to help to feed our kūpuna.

PHOTO COURTESY LORELLE PEROS

Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center is available to rent for your special event.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your holiday events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1150 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit; from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$800 including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit; or from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$950 including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit. If you want to serve alcohol, there is a \$300 additional fee and you must hire two licensed bartenders.

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. Telephone (808) 877-7880



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista. Send your community briefs to [info@filamvoice.com](mailto:info@filamvoice.com).

Keith-Agaran; JoAnn Aki; Miguel & Melen Agcolicol; Rusty & Hedy Udarbe; Maui Filipino Community Council; Maui Health; and the Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, together with donors Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i, Roni Tavares, Ervin Hendrix III, Lance Collins, Kim Barrera, Erlinda Rafanan, Eugenia Idica-Sitts, John Tomoso, Jocelyn Demirbag, Eliza Agpoon & family, Eleri Agsalog, Bobbi Camille Bryant, Ferdinand Cajigal, Lee & Deborah Imada, Amy Ruidas, Cecilia Villafuerte, Agnes Hayashi, Magdalena Domingo, Romeo Guzman, and Anne Shigezawa, as well as those in attendance, the Fundraiser is expected to raise

a net of \$7,000 to establish the Agrifina Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Donations for the Scholarship are still being accepted. Checks payable to Binhi at Ani [Memo: Aggie Cabebe Scholarship] can be mailed to the Center.

**Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament**

The Binhi at Ani 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. The Shotgun Start will begin at 7 a.m., with check in by 6:30 a.m. (breakfast buffet will be provided). There are two levels of sponsorship: Platinum (\$1,400) for eight players, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, four mulligans per player, and a listing in the Mahalo ad. Gold (\$750) for four players, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, two mulligans per player, and a listing in

the Mahalo ad. Tee Sponsors are also available at \$100. The deadline is February 15 with the early bird registration of February 1, which will enter you into a drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei. Plus a special drawing for airfare to the Philippines courtesy of Philippine Airlines. Don't wait as this Tournament always sells out early!

Bayanihan Feeding Program

The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi, which was added in October). As of November 30, a total of 11,592 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

Create a Team by signing up. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna** at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes have begun. They are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enhance@Fitness is a low-cost



Senator Gil Keith-Agaran and his guests enjoyed the "A Bayanihan Christmas: Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser" event, Wednesday, Dec. 14.

PHOTO: BASILIA I. EVANGELISTA

Former students of Aggie Cabebe including employees of Kā'anapali Beach Hotel provided entertainment.

PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna is held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



Mayor Michael Victorino presented a Certificate to Aggie Cabebe's family—daughter Marcia and son Raymond.

PHOTO: BASILIA I. EVANGELISTA



**Miss Maui Filipina 2022**  
**Lennel Joy Alvarez** will  
 be featured in the up-  
 coming **2023 Miss Maui**  
**Filipina Scholarship**  
**Pageant on Friday,**  
**June 2, 2023**

PHOTO COURTESY  
 LENNEL ALVAREZ



ongoing evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program that helps older adults at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Enhance@Fitness is a great way to stay independent or get stronger after illness or surgery. Helps improve energy, strength and balance as you age. For more information on Enhance@Fitness, contact Enhance@Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or gkiick@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

## MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

The Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs is preparing for the 2022 Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi services: Christ the King: December 16–24 at 5 a.m.; Maria Lanakila: December 16–24 at 5 a.m. and December 19 at 6 p.m. with Bishop Larry Silva; St. Anthony: December 15–23 at 6 p.m. and December 17 and 18 at 5 p.m.; St. Joseph: December 16–24 at 7 a.m.; with Bishop Larry Silva on December 19 at 7 a.m.; and St. Theresa: Decem-



ber 15–23 at 5 a.m. except for Sundays at 7 a.m.

## MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant** will be held on June 2, 2023 and the Pageant is recruiting contestants who must be a single Filipino woman (at least 25% Filipino ancestry) and between the ages of 18 and 27 by December 31, 2023. Contact Michelle Santos at 808.264-071 for more information.

**Rizal Day Maria Clara and Barong Gala** will be held on Saturday, December 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Maui Beach Hotel. For more information, contact Event Chair Lawrence Pascua at (808) 250-5330 or Event Co-Chair Marilyn Oura at (808) 280-2057.

The event will also feature the installation of the 2023 officers and directors: President Domingo "Jing" Gumpal, Vice President Lawrence Pascua, Recording Secretary Marilyn Oura, Corresponding Secretary Michelle Santos, Treasurer Judith Piano, Assistant Treasurer Aileen Concepcion, Auditor Virgilio "Leo" Agcolicol, and Directors Cornelio "CJ" Ancheta, Rodrigo Casio, Melanie Garde, Arthur



The Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs is preparing for the 2022 Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi services

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

# As we approach the Holiday Season



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W hew! November came and went in just a few blinks. How was your Thanksgiving? I am so thankful to have my daughter home for the holiday. “There’s no place like home,” she said, “especially for home-cooked meals.” It’s not only on Thanksgiving Day that I am grateful for my loving and supportive family and friends but I am thankful for them every day, along with all the blessings He has given and continues to give me. I am grate-

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

ful for new people I meet and become good friends with. With turkey day out in the books, we look forward to my favorite month of the year, December. A month where you get to see family you

haven’t seen in a long time and find presents under the Christmas tree. Maybe play Santa Claus to the kids and make memories to last a lifetime. Shout out to our December birthday celebrants: Guadalupe “Oping”

Bautista, Maricel Agcaoili Butay, An-nisa Lynne Marie Casabay. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Ma-ligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga ag-gaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo.* Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

“WE WILL TALK ABOUT repayment later,” and Billy stood back up straight. Mom who was talking to Aunty Ju-nie turned to Angel and *isem* (smiled). “Okay, *Tito*,” Angel forcefully spoke.

“Trust me, I will get you to Hawai’i with a great paying *trabaho* (job). Don’t you want to *uffun* (help) your family? Doesn’t your *Amahan* (father) have many expenses for his medicines and food? You will be able to send *kwarta* (money) home every month and *yena* (mother) will not have to suffer to struggle here,” Billy explained.

Angel looked at her *Ima* (mother) who was so happy and *yuhom* (smiling). She struggled so much the last three years now that her *Tatay* (father) was not able to work. Sometimes her *nanay* (mother) cried at night. Oh, how much Angel tried to do business here to *bulig* (help). Selling fishballs with a makeshift food cart. Basically, it was just a dolly with a wooden box on it and a gas burner and a pot of oil she would haul all over the town. Sometimes she would bring home 250 *pesos*. But many nights she would come home with nothing.

Life is hard here. Business is hard when everyone else has no *salapi* (money) to buy any of your products. So sometimes you are just spinning in circles.

“You could *tulong* (help) some of your cousins to go to school. You can send *kwarta* (money) so your *Inahan* (mother) can rebuild the *balay* (house). You can buy a *bale* (house) in Hawai’i and *tabang* (help) your mother by bringing your *Nanay* (mother) and *Tatay* (father) to the USA later. There’s so many people you can *tulungan* (help),” Billy continued.

Angel thought about her *Tata* (father) and how he struggled so much since the sickness. “He used to be so hard working and strong. We used to see him as the foundation of the family. Now that he is unable to work, I see the disappointment and helplessness in his eyes. I love him so much. I remember how he used to carry me and kiss me when I was a kid. I re-

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
Father	Tatay	Tatang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Tata
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
House / Home	Bahay/ Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Job	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Help	Tulungan	Tulong	Tabang	Bulig	Uffun	Saup

member he used to come home and give me his coins from his pocket which I would stash away in my shoe. He was a valued worker at his company. Then one day he got hurt at work and we rushed to the hospital. It was awful. I remember so well the hurt and pain of the screams from my *Yena* (mother). Now that *Yama* (father) survived, I wonder what goes in his head everyday knowing he is no longer the provider for the family.”

“You can marry and have kids. They would live in the USA and have a bright future. Imagine. You can change the entire legacy of this family.”

Angel began to imagine a life. Pineapple life. Lots of pineapples. Pineapple ice cream. Pineapple smoothies. Pineapple candy. Pineapple cakes. Pineapple hats and shirts.

Suddenly she woke up from her daze.

“Angel. Angel. Angel,” Billy shouted.

“Pineapple pen!” Angel shouted. Her cousin began to laugh hysterically and slapped Angel.

“I’m serious, Angel. So *anni* (what) is your answer?” Billy questioned.

“Yes *Tito*, I will follow you. *Nanoyin* (What) do I have to do?” Angel asked.

“We need to get a National ID card. We need to take some photos. We need to apply for a passport. Come over to my *bahay* (house) to take some photos for your passport.”

“To your *tahanan* (house)?”

“Yes, we need to take some photos for your passport as well as for your

national ID and to send it to your employer to put in your file,” Billy smiled.

“Ah ok,” Angel muttered. “Come over to the *bahay* (house) tomorrow,” Billy said.

“*Hani* (What) time *Tito*?” Angel responded.

“About noon. Because I like to sleep late.”

A sudden strong gust of wind hit Angel’s face. Back to reality.

Tears rolled down her *mata* (eyes) and she started crying. “I did not do anything wrong. I trusted Billy. My family trusted Billy. My *nanay* (mother) and my *tatay* (father) even borrowed money so I could come here and achieve what they call ‘American dream.’ I am *nasingpet* (a good person). Why me?”

“Hello? Angel! *San-o* (Where) is my son?” Michael’s *Nanang* (mother’s) voice fluttering and fading away in the background as her *mata* (eyes) well up.

“Hello? Angel!” Michael’s mom says softly.

“We know *ana* (what) you did to that officer, Angel. Just let my son go. Please, I am asking you,” she pleads to her.

“Officer?” Angel asks herself.

Mom’s voice shatters. “He doesn’t deserve this. He is a good person. Just let him go! I’m begging you, please.”

“*Ano* (What) are you talking about lady?” Angel couldn’t control herself anymore.

“You know *hani* (what) you did,” says the mom.

“*Ana* (What) did I do?” she asks

confusedly.

“You are on video. They are coming after you!” the mom exclaims.

“*Nanoyin?! (What?!)*” Angel asks. “You killed that cop!” exclaims the mom.

Angel was gasping, “*Ano? (What?) Killed ano? (what?) Ana (what) cop?*” she asks confusedly.

“The cop you killed in Honolulu. I know you did it,” the mom says so surely.

Angel is hardly able to breathe. “Uh ... uh ... uh ... ” is all that Angel manages to murmur from her lips.

How did she know about the incident? Did she witness it? Was she there? What is she going to tell this lady?

Anyways that’s all I have. Keep an eye out for my column in every issue. I’m Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let’s laugh, let’s *making* (listen), and Let’s Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!) ✨

**Dulce Karen Butay** was graduated from



Maui High School and 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.





Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen attended “A Bayanihan Christmas,” Wednesday, Dec. 14, honoring Agrifina Cabebe, the “Mother of Filipino Folk Dance” here on Maui. The event raises funds for Scholarships for graduating seniors.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

# Bissen ...

from p. 6

letes than him.

As a grandfather, Bissen is deeply concerned about future generations. He explains the difference between generational thinking and political thinking. “Generational thinking is what we would have wanted for those who came before us to do—what can we do today that will help our generations twenty years from now. What happens with political thinking is people think in two years and four years terms or cycles because that’s what gets you elected and re-elected. We

should be thinking about two generations and four generations ahead. Right now, we’re reactive. I want us to be pro-active. I don’t want us to be at the whim of what’s happening around us.”

Bissen questions why we’re still talking about housing, water, tourism and most recently, homelessness. “The problems are the same but the solutions got to be different,” he says. “And I think a big way for us to try. I’m naive enough to say I’ll try this. Let’s try to do the long-term. Plant a tree today for whose shade you will never experience. We want to set up a way of doing things—a foundation so

see BISEN p.15

## Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!



from the



### Fil-Am Voice



*UH Maui College successfully started me on the path to my dream of becoming a surgeon!*

*I was guided by teachers who gave me a strong foundation of knowledge and supported me every step of the way.*

*Maraming salamat po, UHMC!*

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Dcn. Cornelio when he became an American citizen.



Dcn. Cornelio and Linda with son Stephen and family in Seattle.

Bishop Silva called me saying, “Sorry for what happened to Deacon Cornelio.” After talking to me with comforting words, he said, “Let us pray” on the phone, we did, and I felt better.

About five or six days later, Cornelio had another attack and he had to be revived again. The doctors asked if they wanted me to allow them to keep doing this to him because some of his ribs were already broken. Stephen recommended they put a stent in but they didn’t do that procedure at Saint Anne’s.

They brought Cornelio to the University of Washington where they specialize in heart procedures. After only one day of the procedure, Cornelio was brought back to Saint Anne’s.

About a week later, I visited him at the hospital. Visitations were limited due to COVID. The doctor called the three of us together to visit him. I was worried and thought that was the end of him because they normally allowed only one person to visit and see him. Instead of thinking negatively, I prayed and asked for a miracle. When the doctor heard me asking for a miracle, he said “There’s no miracle.” When he said this, I prayed more and talked to the Lord... that there is nothing impossible, there are miracles, and to show this doctor that God can do everything!

While I was there, I talked to my daughter and her two sons, Jayden and Kai. I woke up early in the morning, made coffee and then did my rosary asking Mother Mary to intercede for us to her Son, Our Lord, Je-



Our ‘Miracle Man’ Deacon Cornelio and his lovely wife Linda enjoying God’s gifts.

sus Christ. Whenever time permitted, I am always praying the rosary. That was my routine while I was staying at my daughter Joy’s home.

Cornelio: After two months, I started talking to my family through ZOOM. I shared with my wife three things I remembered while I was in a coma. (I don’t know if this is just my imagination.)

First, I dreamt that I’m going to die, that I’m hanging by one hair. So, I prayed and asked God to give me more years to be with my family, to continue my ministry as a Deacon, and to help the church and our brothers and sisters. Right after I prayed, I surrendered myself and said to God, “Let your will be done.”

Matthew 26:39. Jesus prayed. My father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

Second, I dreamt that there was a voice that said, “I did not call your name.” (I don’t remember if it’s the same day or the same night.)

Third, I dreamt that I was laying down, holding a baby girl, about a year old, jumping on my stomach, saying, “Papa ... Papa!”

When my son heard about my dream, he was surprised because at that time, he already knew that his wife, Amber, was pregnant with a baby girl. (Praise the Lord! Another prayer answered!) I didn’t know that Amber was pregnant. Stephen asked me if the baby had red hair, since Amber has

red hair. I answered, “I don’t know ... I didn’t notice.” And jokingly I said, “Maybe it was green or purple.” My son just laughed.

Again, a prayer is answered! My wife and I have been praying for Stephen and Amber to have a baby because they have been married for five years and have no baby yet. But here she is ... a baby girl named Aurea, after my wife, Aurealinda. Stephen told us that he cannot name his daughter, ‘Cornelia’ ... doesn’t sound too good.

While I stayed in this room for another two weeks, I met a lot of people and made good friends: doctors, nurses, therapists, housekeepers. I was attached to all of them and them to me. When I was moved to another room, they even hugged me! Someone said, “I wish we could keep you here.” I answered, “No way, Jose!” While I was in this new room (one door down), some of them still came to visit me to say, “Hi. How are you doing?” They gave me hugs before leaving.

Linda: When Cornelio awoke and spoke, I said, “Thank You Lord! Praise you and glorify Your Name!” I remember one of the doctors saying, “Not too many people survive after being revived for forty-five minutes, and if they live, it’s probable that the brain is affected, or they can’t talk.” I came to realize that it’s all God’s plan. We can plan, but the outcome is in God’s hands. It’s a blessing that his heart attack did not happen in the airplane.

Cornelio and Linda: We stayed in Washington in time to witness our granddaughter come into this world. It’s good to have our son bring his dad to his doctor checkups. We returned to Maui on October 8, 2022. Stephen, Amber and baby Aurea accompanied us to Maui. We will all leave together to go back to Washington. It looks like we are going to be dual residents of Washington and Maui. I already have a Washington driver’s license. A Washington license gives me six years compared to two years in Maui when you’re a senior citizen. We have a car in Washington, but we are not planning to drive to many places because we may get lost. What’s important is that we go to

church and get groceries. So again, we say, prayer works all the time! Many people prayed for me. I thank everyone but most of all to our loving God! Alleluia!

Deacon Cornelio and Linda have touched our lives by sharing their story. They also astound us by their way of life and faith through Jesus Christ! And showed us what it looks like for Jesus to live through their actions, words and priorities with love. They have shown us actions what it means to go from death to new life. This Christmas, our newborn King brings us a new prospective in renewed life, hope, faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ! We thank Him who gives us life here on earth and promise us to be with Him in His Kingdom! God is good! Ti Apo ket nasayaat. All the time! Nga kankanayon. Merry Christmas everyone! And Happy New Year 2023! May God bless you all! In the Name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit! Amen! Jesus, I trust in You! Apo Jesus, Agtalekak Kenka! ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai‘i, after serving for thirty-five years and becoming on June 18, 1987, 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. His last assignment before retiring was at 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 is married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty-one years.



Deacon grandpa Cornelio and grandma Linda with Stephen and Amber with newly born baby Aurea.





Mayor-Elect Bissen takes a photo with Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, Jan Paa, Lita Dahilig, Joan Andia, Shirley Tolentino Norma Cronkite and Bernie Cronkite, Madelyne Pascua and Jeanine Miranda.

PHOTOS: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

## Bissen ...

from p. 13

maybe those who come after us can think in those terms. Maybe it's because I'm an older, first-time candidate I don't have the desire to do anything else but this."

As applied to his priorities—housing, developing water sources and preserving water sources—generational thinking means investing now for future generations.

Bissen says the lack of water is an important issue. "We should own our water but I don't think we should manage the water. I don't think we've shown any expertise in managing. I do think we should talk to those people who are experts and good at it. When I say ownership, I'm talking about who gets to use the water, how much, at what rates. I think we can probably put our heads together and decide what we think is sustainable, what is most productive and helpful for our community."

"There's two places we should be looking for water—where the people live and where there's a drought," he asserts. "What we're doing now is delivering water from one place where there's plenty of it to some place where there is not a lot which means people live in one place and the water is at another place. We're so used to transferring water from East Maui to say Upcountry Maui or somewhere else, we're not taking the time or energy to see if there's water that can be developed in those areas. At some point somebody's got to bite the bullet. Now is the time because we have this money drop from the federal government for infrastructure and resources. What I want us to think about in my administration is generational thinking not political thinking."

Bissen's "Can do" anything mantra is borne by his belief that "I think anything is possible." He anticipates regular meetings, maybe more frequently with his team. "I'm going to keep on top of housing being built on Maui more than any other thing. Housing and developing water resources will be my two main focuses. Every week,

I'm gonna ask my guys, 'Where are we on housing? Where we at on the water?'"

He believes his accessory dwelling units (ADU) plan—more than the 1,000 feet 'Ohanas that have been historically allowed—is the best way to attack the housing problem and has set a goal to be accomplished within the first six months of his term. "We want a hundred accessory dwelling units approved within the first one hundred and eighty days. We want to submit three separate plans: a studio, a one bedroom and two-bedroom units—the most popular models. We want them to be pre-approved by the different departments that have to approve those permits so that people can do owner-builder, hire contractor—as long as you're on the County sewer, County water. If you don't fall under that, your permit will have to go through the normal process. That's the quickest and easiest way to get affordable housing."

Bissen will also continue with those projects in the pipeline. "I think the previous administration started to put a lot of homes in the pipeline. I think we should continue those programs that do allow affordability for people."

But Bissen knows there will always be a homeless situation. "We shouldn't put the pressure on ourselves to end homelessness. I want to help those we can. I'm an advocate of people living in their cars. We should transition people from where they are to where we can help them. There's a lot of good we can do to help our citizens that are on the cusp. They have jobs; they just can't afford rent or a mortgage and so we should help the ones we can. Since the beginning of time, we have people who choose this lifestyle."

The planning department will play a key role. He explains he needs to understand the complete challenges of the planning department. For example, the planning department has to deal with different rules, laws, ordinances that can come into conflict. "We should put some kind of system in place that allows for this potential type of conflict to be reviewed all at once—not a piecemeal approach. I

think we have to anticipate common issues that come up. We can't keep kicking the same stone every time it happens. We got to learn our lesson and say this is what we could have done to prevent this from happening."

As far as tourism, Bissen understands over fifty percent of Maui's income comes from tourism-related businesses. He notes the impact tourism has on small businesses, restaurants and similar businesses. But he cautions: "If we're going to replace, diversify our economy, we have to have something to replace it with. I don't know if ag will be enough."

To Bissen, the future of tourism means striking a balance. "We love tourism, we just don't always love tourists. We like the money that comes out of it. We don't always like the impact that comes out of it." He says the first thing is to recognize there are limitations. "What can we do to maximize the economic benefit while minimizing the infrastructure and resource impact? That's the question; that's always going to be the question. We're a huge visitor destination in the world—no question about it."

As far as caps on hotel construction, he says it's up to the Council and he is willing to hear what the Council says but notes "I'd rather incentivize than punish people for their behavior. I think motivation is probably more positive than moratoriums." As far as the cap of tourists per residents, he notes those numbers were exceeded and says Maui has to either stick to those numbers or change them. "We can't ignore it."

Bissen also noted it's not tourists who leave abandoned cars, washers on the side of the road. "We have to take pride in ourselves too. I think we can all do a better job."

Although Bissen hasn't met with Mahi Pono yet, he says "We want to attract people who will be good stewards of the land, help employ our people and of course grow our food. For us, we have to decide whether someone is a good neighbor or not a good neighbor. I think they're providing a valuable service in that they're planting in the central valley. Again, we

can disagree with the types of planting. One thing that is important is they hire local people. I compare it to Walmart, Target or Costco. These are companies that hire a lot of local people. They provide a service—goods and services that we're buying. Nobody is saying shut down Walmart. I like the small mom and pop businesses—they're the backbone of any community. I just think we gotta be consistent in what we're talking about. I'm not making a moral judgment about this company or any other company but as long as they hit the points we want them to hit—they provide value, they provide a service, more than they're taking—that's the equation. If not them, then who? How are we going to get food produced? How are we gonna get the central valley grown and get more jobs?" Bissen is confident he can have frank conversations with former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui, Mahi Pono's Chief Operating Officer and face on Maui.

Bissen looks forward to the many events of Maui's Filipino community. "Sure," he says when told he is expected to attend every single Filipino event. "If I can't make it, I'll send a representative." When told he would be crowning queens, he quipped "I think I'm taller than most of them." (Bissen is very familiar with beauty pageants because his sister Lehua Bissen Nobriga—a former Miss Hawai'i—used to run the Miss Maui pageants and Bissen would be the Master of Ceremonies for some of those pageants.)

While Bissen is initially a bit reserved in making political promises, he did say "We should do that" in reference to a monument honoring the Maui Volunteers (see the October 15, 2022 issue of *The Fil-Am Voice*), comprised primarily of Filipinos during WWII.

Bissen seemed to be at ease engaging with members of Maui's Filipino community during the recent "A Bayanihan Christmas: Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser." Dressed sharply in his Barong Tagalog, he chatted with old and new friends and posed for photos, claiming however

see BISSEN p.19



Mayor-Elect Bissen talks with Sen. Gil S.C. Keith Agaran during the Scholarship fundraiser event.





Philip Sabado



Felix Sabado's photo taken at the baptism of his grandson.



Sabado Family photo. Youngest, Philip Sabado, is seated on his mother Severina's lap.

# Philip Bernaldo Sabado

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY SABADO 'OHANA | ALL ART IMAGES BY PHIL SABADO

French Impressionist artist Edgar Degas said “Art is not what you see but what you make others see.” Henry Ward Beecher, an American clergyman and social reformer had this to say about artists. “Every artist dips his brush in his own soul and paints his own nature into his pictures.”

This month’s featured Sakada Offspring, Philip Bernaldo Sabado is a well-known Filipino artist not only here on Maui but all of Hawai’i and

the world. His artwork especially his paintings can be seen and enjoyed by many everywhere.

Philip was born on March 8, 1945 in Waialua, O’ahu, Hawai’i. He attended Maunaloa Elementary, Molokai High School, Honolulu Academy of Arts, receiving Certificate of Completion: Design/Illustration/Fine Art, University of Hawai’i where he received his teaching degree and Fine Arts, Pasadena Art Center College of design, Illustration Major, Columbia Universi-

ty, Paris, France, Illustration major, Chaunard College of design in Los Angeles, and Otis/Parson School of Design and Long Beach State—Study of Human.

From 1963–1966, Philip was in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division.

Philip is married to Mary Christine Sabado, 53 years married. They have six children: Paulo Bernaldo Sabado 53, Manager Arch of Maui. He and his wife Tara Sabado have three children. Erin Felix Sabado, 51, Manager Saba-

do Wailea Gallery. He and his wife Kindra have two children. Severina Maria Sabado Lopez, 49, owns “A Maui Day.” She and her husband Frankie Lopez have three children. Ian Sabado, 37 works as an IT in San Diego. He and his wife Elena have no children. Jackie Sabado Eitel, owns Paradise Now in Wailuku. She and her husband James Eitel have three children. Alipio Sabado, 34, is engaged and works in construction. Philip has twelve siblings.

Philip’s favorite quotation is: “What others consider mythology, I consider history.” Philip has an array of art experiences: Portuguese-Puerto Rican Murals - National Heritage Center

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Christine and Philip's wedding photo taken 53 years ago





Felix Sabado in his later years, illustrated by Philip Sabado.

(2018), Kaiser Hospitals Internal art Corporate Office (2018), Westin Corporation large mural for Lobby (2017), Kaiser Corporation Committed to four hospitals (2016), Pōmaika'i Mural - Mosaic Tile (2015), Bank of Hawai'i Mural - Glass Tile (2015), Ke'ena Kuakahi/Sabado Art Studios Wailuku, Maui (2015–1993). In his art studio, besides a gallery, he has adult and children's art classes, private and public commissions, murals and large art projects, and watercolor and oil paintings. Other art experiences are Lahaina News, Art Director Lahaina, Maui (1993–1989), Gilbert & Associates - Freelance Art Kahului, Maui (1986–1993). He designs brochures, advertisements, logos, letterheads, business cards, menus, etc. At Creative Communication Hilo, Hawai'i, (1984–1986), he designed advertisements, logos, brochures, hotel and restaurant signage.

Philip is so well known for his great artwork he received many private and public commissions. The following is a list of all of them: (1) Hilton Hawaiian Village, Ali'i Tower (2012): Ahuli'i (Feather Capes) - watercolor paintings (18" x 24") on French Arches paper and prints for 450 Rooms. Consultants: Gina Bacon Kerr, Philpott Design Agency; JT Suzuki, Hilton Head Corporation Projects Coordinator. (2) Saint Marianne Cope (2012): commissioned by Diocese of Honolulu (Saint that succeeded St. Damien on Molokai). Medium; watercolor on French Arches paper: 18" x 24" Consultant Bishop Larry Silva. (3) Hawai'i Nei Institute (2012): commissioned portrait Kumu Roselle Bailey. Com-

memorative poster. Medium: watercolor on French Arches paper 18" x 24". Historical Consultant: Kumu Roselle Bailey. (4) Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1212): "Lily of the Mohawks" -original watercolor 18" x 24" commemorative poster of Saint of the Native American tribes commissioned by the Catholic Parish of San Diego. (5) Saint Damien of Molokai (2009): Commemorative poster 18" x 24" commissioned by the Diocese of Honolulu from original watercolor on French Arches paper. Advisors: Monsignor Terry Watanabe, St. Theresa's Parish; Bishop Larry Silva, Archdiocese of Honolulu. (6) Hilton Hawaiian Village (2002): Queen's Bath oil painting 16' x 6' for Kalia Tower Spa and three original oil paintings 48" x 36" of Hawaiian Ali'i's for Ali'i Tower. Consultants: Gina Bacon Kerr, Philpott Design Agency; JT Suzuki, Hilton Head Corporation Projects Coordinator; Woody Kirtley, Art Representative - Graphic Works Collection; Kumu George Kanahele. (7) Year of the Hawaiian (1987): "Kalakapu" (Sacred Sunshine) - poster 12" x 24" for Hula Kahiko celebration of Hawai'i. Consultants: Kumu Johnny Lum Ho; Lyons Naone, Year of the Hawaiian Committee. (8) "Kanyaku Imin" (1985): Commemorative poster 18" x 24" for the 100th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Hawai'i commissioned by The Hilo Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Original watercolor on French Arches paper and was gifted to the Emperor of Japan by the people of Hawai'i island.

Philip received several Leadership see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



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Awards in the Field of Art: 2008 Pundy Yokouchi Award, “Maui Artist of the Year” from the Maui Arts & Culture Committee, 2005 City and County of Maui - “Maui Artist of the Year,” 1982 Selected one of the top 50 Illustrators to study with seven major illustrators of United States in Columbia University, Paris, France. 1980 Selected member of Los Angeles Society of Illustrators. 1979 Selected of Art Directors Club of Los Angeles.

On the local level, Philip Sabado is such a humble, patient children’s art teacher. He can teach art skills even to the most *kolohe* (naughty), misbehaved kids. With him, they produce beautiful artwork!

Philip’s mother, Severina Blen was originally from Dolores, Abra, Philippines. His father, Felix Sabado was from Santiago, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. They came to Hawai’i in the 1930s as single individuals. However, according to Philip, there was an incident that happened and that Felix was going to be deported back to the Philippines. But arrangements were made for him to marry Severina so he wouldn’t be deported. That’s how the Sabado Clan began. There were nine children in the Sabado family. Three were born in Honoka’a, Hawai’i. Then another three were born when they moved to Kaua’i. Their third move was at Wailua, O’ahu and three more were born there. Their last move was to Molokai when Philip was only four years old. Felix Sabado worked in the sugar cane plantation while Severina was a housewife taking

care of her household and children. To help with the family income, she took in laundry. Philip mentioned his mom and sisters did the washing and ironing while Philip was the delivery boy.

Felix had a certain talent in making wine from sugar cane and pineapple. He was also a talented musician playing the guitar for his family. Philip claims he learned from his parents the value of togetherness in harmony doing things together as husband and wife till death do they part. He also learned the value of gratefulness, being grateful for the basic necessities of life. He appreciates his brother-in-law Rehino for showing him how to hunt and fish. He was truly his mentor. He also learned from his sisters not to be afraid to take risks. They encouraged him to do what he wanted to do in life. Philip was the youngest of the siblings.

Christine Sabado, Philip’s wife is Caucasian by ethnicity. She is truly, however, a Filipino at heart. She embraced the Filipino culture when she married Philip fifty-three years ago. She wrote a very endearing story about her first meal with Philip’s parents and it is worth sharing. This is her story:

*In the kitchen, in the center of the table, sat a large glass that held spoons and forks; rice was served on the side-board attached to the stove. A steaming bowl of soup with vegetables and pork was placed in the center of the table. The vegetables had an unfamiliar consistency for me. They all appeared very*



Young Felix Sabado with his Filipino attire, illustrated by Philip Sabado.

fresh and homegrown, all dark in color, with a texture very different from the Irish boiled potatoes and carrots and common vegetables I knew from my childhood. The strong smell of garlic and ginger root and bay leaf was assaulting all the senses and filling the room as more soup was ladled into the bowl from the steaming pot.

Without protocol Papa, quietly prepared Mama’s plate and carefully placed her rice in the center, a precise mound, a scoop. He then ladled the soup of dark green vegetables from a weathered white ceramic bowl, as the bowl filled, I saw the charming design of golden wheat. Philip followed suit and scooped rice onto my plate as well. Mama sat near the window, directly across from me. I could not keep my eyes from her face. She was glowing and beamed like a proud bird with her family surrounding her, all smiling and fussing about. They were all chirping and busy around us. The lines of age softened on her frail face in the natural glow of the diffused light as golden as the yellow beams that filtered through the checkered curtains. Philip placed my plate before me and ladled more of the soup and vegetables onto my rice and then onto his own plate. He sat between his parents; a brief moment with eyes closed and intoned a *pule* a prayer before they began eating with great passion.

Suddenly all was silent as every eye in the room intently watched me. Smiling to all present I exclaimed haltingly, “Oh, it looks and smells wonderful.” No

one moved to serve him or herself. I glanced at Philip with a questioning expression. He was already engrossed, busy slurping at his soup, showing his enjoyment of the meal. He looked up from his now half-empty bowl and saw my face to say: “They won’t eat until Mama and Papa and we have eaten, as how!”

Christine’s philosophy in a successful marriage is: “When you marry your husband or wife, you are also marrying the whole family.” ✱

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe’e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada)

and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli’imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins other Waihe’e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.

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# Gifts That Keep on Giving

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Remember the song *Give Love On Christmas Day* by The Jackson 5? If you are the same age as I am or older, I am sure you know that song. If you are younger and not familiar with it, go ahead and google it. It is a wonderful song that talks about giving love on Christmas, as its title says. That song got me thinking of ways we can express love on Christmas and even throughout the years. Let’s talk story about some of them:

- The gift of basic needs** - During the holidays, many of us think about the holiday food—the ham, the pies, the fancy drinks and all that. There are, however, many in our community who simply need basic food each day. As we shop for our Holiday Christmas meal, let us think of ways we can also give to those who need the basic necessities of life. We can give food directly to people we know who are in need or we can give to a non-profit organization focused on this such as Maui Food Bank, Feed My Sheep, Maui Rescue Mission and Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Shelter.
- The gift of sustainability** - This is somewhat related to the first gift we mentioned but it goes further. This is about supporting the people and organizations whose focus is sustainability. It is giving gifts to people and organizations whose mission is to protect our environment and community. For example, our local farmers. Let us support them by buying fresh produce from the local farmers’ market. This week, I had the opportunity to visit and learn about fish pond restoration being done by the non-profit organization Mālama Hula. It was such an eye-opening experience about the future of fisheries. It was a great time of learning and volunteering.
- The gift of education, legacy and a brighter future** - As I think about this, one great example came to my mind, who exemplifies this kind of giving is

the Cabebe family. Agrifina “Aggie” Cabebe (1928-2020) was a remarkable trailblazer in Maui’s Filipino community. She was known as the “Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui” and “The General” and she served in many capacities, including the first president of Binhi at Ani in 1985. Maui will always be indebted to her for her pioneer efforts in community building and preserving the Filipino culture. To sustain her memory for generations, the Cabebe family and Binhi at Ani created the Agrifina Cabebe / Binhi at Ani Scholarship, funded in part by donations and an annual event in her honor. The event happened on December 14, 2022, however, donations for the Scholarship are still being accepted. For more information, please contact the Event Chairperson, Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100 or Alfredo GEvangelista@gmail.com.

- The gift of joy** - Yes, needy families need food and shelter but we can go above and beyond. Many families with unfortunate circumstances have young children. Christmas time is a fun time for kids to receive fun gifts like toys, new dresses and shoes and more but their families do not have the means to give them such gifts. This is where projects of non-profit organizations come in, like the Samaritan’s Purse’s Operation Christmas Child Christmas Shoe Box, and the Angel Tree project by Prison Fellowship. The Samaritan’s Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts—filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way. Angel Tree Christmas gives incarcerated parents a way to provide a Christmas gift and a personal message, delivered by caring, local volunteers, as a tangible. The ultimate goal of the Angel Tree program is to get new toys



Gifts during the Christmas season are not just those “things” enclosed in a box, wrapped with pretty paper and tied with a special bow. There are other gifts given in different ways too, that can encourage people in our community and even change the lives of those we hold dear.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

- and clothing into the hands of needy children during the holiday season. Imagine the joy these less fortunate children will feel as they receive their gifts this Christmas!
- The gift of time and encouragement** - Do you live far away from your senior parents? A visit to them or a phone call would mean the world to them! Do you know someone who is in the hospital during the holidays? A hospital visit will bring some cheer! It is not just material things we can give during the holidays. Time and encouragement are needed more than ever. Think of creative ways on how you can spend time with your loved one this season. Maybe a special date with your spouse or kids is needed during this hectic season. Maybe a friend just got laid off from work and needs encouragement. How about a friend who just got divorced, had a bad break-up or someone who is grieving the loss of their child? The list goes on and on. There are plenty of opportunities to give encouragement by spending time with the ones we

love and care for.

In closing, I would like to share with you this quote about giving:

*“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”* – Winston Churchill

*Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon! 🌟*



**Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend... and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Digital Media Specialist with Hawai’i Life Real Estate Brokers. She is the author of the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning,



business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 39 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idi-

## Bissen ...

from p. 15

he doesn’t smile for photos. Like other elected officials, he had multiple events on his calendar that night but was able to arrange for a representative at the other event so he stayed at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center for the whole evening; after all, his residence at Pohaku Street in

Kahului was just a short drive away. When Bissen was called to the stage to say a few words; he joked at his host. But Bissen was dead serious when he asked for everyone to work together.

On January 2, 2023, Mayor Bissen will officially begin his role as leader of the County of Maui and he will get his shot at implementing the Kamaaina Prosperity he talked about as a candidate.



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.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



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