

As we learn to live with the 'Pandemic,' this celebration is on.

See below



Paucity of Filipino role models is intrinsically a call to action.

See p5



**Golf equals** Join the fun.

See p8



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"



Nationwide, a number of Filipino Americans elected in 2022

p4



Diversity, complexity is being reflected in the media.

p6



Lydia Merrigan is this month's Sakada Offspring.



The board which normally has photos of the Mayor and his cabinet was bare as of January 11.

PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Richard Bissen gets sworn in by retired Judge Joe Cardoza.

# Counting the Manongs and Manangs

Alfredo G. Evangelista | Assistant Editor

responsibility for the exercise Hawai'i constitution.

ll political power of thereof rests with the people. this State is inherent All government is founded on new Mayor or a new Gover- ging. Political patronage—the in the people and the this authority. Section 1 of the nor, speculation on appoint- authority of a new executive

ments to plum jobs starts po-

Whenever voters elect a litical pundits' tongues wagsee DIRECTORS next page

# Celebrating the Santo Niño

Alfredo G. Evangelista | Assistant Editor | \*Feature story begins on page 3



**Theresa** Dela Calsada Malapira with a Santo Niño. PHOTO COURTESY THERESA MALAPIRA



## Directors ...

from p. 1

to pick his or her team—measures the influence of a particular group. In Hawai'i's diverse and multi-ethnic community, political power was historically denied to various immigrant groups.

In Hawai'i, Filipinos were the last major immigrant group brought by the plantations to labor in the fields. Filipinos received the most menial jobs, lowest pay and the worst housing. While a few Filipinos ventured away from the plantations to start small businesses, the majority of the Sakada generation stayed and worked in sugar and pineapple.

Following statehood in 1959 and as more Filipinos arrived under President Lyndon Johnson's Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, Filipinos became more interested and involved in the political process. Involvement did not translate to patronage, evidenced by a continuing scarcity of Filipinos employed by the County and State governments in administrative jobs.

Three years after the new federal Immigration law went into effect, Artemio Baxa, Roger Cachola, and Phil Domingo-all recent immigrants—were hired as the first Filipino newcomers to work at Maui County under what was called a Work Experience Program. Assigned to Mayor Elmer Cravalho's office, Cravalho personally paid for the salaries of Baxa, Cachola and Domingo because the Board of Supervisors did not initially approve the program. It would be a



The Wall of Managing Directors with Capili (top row, left) and Yoshimura (top right, far right) Рното: ALFREDO G. **E**VANGELISTA

couple of years before the County Council agreed to fund the Work Experience Program which drew more talented Filipinos like Vince Bagoyo, Jr. to county white collar employment. Bagoyo would later be appointed by Mayor Hannibal Tavares as Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns and eventually the Department of Water Supply. When Tavares appointed Bagoyo to the Department of Water Supply, Tavares then appointed Robert Agres, Jr. as Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

While remembered in the local community for his support, aside from Selberio Menor (Administrator of the Department of Civil Defense) and Claro Capili, Cravalho did not appoint any Filipinos as his Department Directors. But Capili was appointed as Managing Director in 1979 and when Cravalho resigned only months later, Capili became Acting Mayor. (Interestingly, the wall lined with Managing Director's photographs created during the last days of the Arakawa administration mistakenly identifies Capili as Maui's first Managing Director; rather, Shigeto "Mustard" Murayama actually served as Cravalho's first Managing Director.)

Over the years, most Maui Mayors made only a few appointments of Filipinos as Directors of Departments including the following:

- In 1995, newly elected Linda Lingle appointed Henry Oliva as Director of Parks and Recreation.
- In 2003, newly elected Alan Arakawa appointed Gilbert Coloma-Agaran as Director of Public Works and Waste Management.
- In 2007, newly elected Charmaine Tavares appointed Benjamin Acob as Prosecuting Attorney. Later, Tavares appointed Agnes Macadangdang Hayashi as Director of Finance in 2010.
- In 2011, Mayor Arakawa, reclaiming the ninth floor, appointed Danny Agsalog as Director of Finance.
- In 2015, re-elected Mayor Arakawa reappointed Danny Agsalog as Director of Finance and added Kaala Buenconsejo as Director of Parks & Recreation.
- In 2019, Mayor Michael Victorino did not initially appoint any Filipinos as Department Directors. A few months into his term, Victorino did elevate then-Deputy Director Rowena Dagdag-Andaya to head the Department of Public Works when the County Council rejected Victorino's initial appointee, David Goode from the Arakawa administration. Victorino also appointed Don Guzman as Prosecuting Attorney when the Council also turned down his initial pick, carry-over John D. Kim from the Arakawa administration. (Victorino later terminated Guzman for a violation of the County's workplace violence policy and the County Council approved the removal. Guzman then sued Victorino and the County Council for wrongful termination. After a trial in federal court, Guzman reportedly received \$75,000.00, substantially less than the \$600,000.00 he sought in a proposed settlement with the County.)

This year, except for reappointing Director Victorino's Agriculture Rogerene "Kali" Montero Arce, newly elected Mayor Richard Bissen passed on including any Filipinos as Directors. (When Arce was previously ap-



Rogerene "Kali" Montero Arce PHOTO COURTESY COUNTY OF MAUI

pointed by Victorino in July 2022 to become the first director of the newly created Department of Agriculture, most news agencies identified the part-Filipino Molokai resident as a Native Hawaiian. Arce who is 50 percent Filipino, was named after her Dad Rogelio. She traces her roots to the Ilocos and Cebu regions. Arce's paternal grandfather Pio Montero was from Santa Maria in the Province of Ilocos Sur while her paternal great grandparents Gervacio Caballes and Segunda Sevilla Caballes were from Cebu. Gervacio was a Sakada who arrived in Oahu in 1923 and later assigned to Hawai'i island.)

In years past, members of Maui's Filipino community would complain about the lack of Filipinos being appointed to the Mayor's cabinet. Some would even write a letter to the editor of The Maui News. But this year the noise level from Maui's Filipino community is minimal. It's not that Maui's Filipino community no longer cares if they are represented on the Cabinet. Rather, no one from Maui wanted to go on record to express their opinions.

Amefil "Amy" Agbayani, who start-



Amy Agbayani **PHOTO COURTESY A**GBAYANI

Operation ed Manong and is currently Co-Chair of Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights explains why it's important for the Filipino community to be represented. "Diversity is strength. Inclusion and repre-

sentation are Hawai'i values. Inclusion of Filipinos is consistent with values of equity, diversity and government's responsibility to serve and represent members of the community." Agbayani notes Filipinos comprise the second largest ethnic group in the State and says "Excluding competent Filipinos from the cabinet means a significant segment of Maui's multi-ethnic community is unrepresented even though Filipinos contribute to the community as taxpayers, voters, professionals, workers, and neighbors." Agbayani believes "programs, policies and processes are better where there is a diversity of backgrounds, opinions and experiences."

Mila Medallon Kaahanui who led fights against discrimination in the trenches agrees with Agbayani. "Filipinos comprise a large segment of Hawai'i's population but are the least

see DIRECTORS p.7



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## Santo Niño ... from p. 1

it Senyor! Senyor! Senyor! Pit Senyor! Senyor! Senyor! Sugod na sa Sinulog Kitang tanan mag-Pit Senyor

Sugod na sa Sinulog Kitang tanan mag-Pit Senyor

On the third Sunday of January, Filipinos gather in Cebu and throughout the world to pay homage to the Santo Niño, which is Spanish for Holy Child. The celebration begins with nine days of novena and ends with the Sinulog.

Here on Maui, the Sto. Niño Club of Maui will resume the full celebration after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic during which only the novena and a limited mass were held, according to Theresa Dela Calsada Malapira, the president. Other officers include Vice President Elenita Diaz, Secretary Theresa Sotto, Corresponding Secretary Liezl Oandasan, Treasurer Julna Iraha, Assistant Treasurer Ben Diaz and Auditor Rosita Pono. Malapira explained the organization, which has a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS, began in 1962 in the plantation camps in H'poko, primarily as a mutual aid organization. "I'm excited because this Fiesta is a grand celebration. This is the biggest event for our organization and this year will be our 61st Annual Fiesta." (Lāna'i will have its celebration on January 22, beginning at 5 p.m.)



First night of novenas at Christ the King Church with Fr. Jose Macoy (rear). PHOTO COURTESY THERESA MALAPIRA

Oandasan, a past president, was tapped to be the lead organizer of the festivities. "The nine days of novenas started on January 6 at Christ the King Church. On Sunday, January 15, we will have a mass at 3 p.m. at Christ the

King followed by a Fiesta at Kīhei Community Center at approximately 5:30 p.m."

Malapira says the Fiesta will begin with a procession around the exterior of the community center followed by the Sinulog dance with over a dozen dancers. "The Sinulog dance is a celebration of the Christianity of the natives," she explains. "Later, everyone

will be invited to bring their Santo Niño to dance along with the Sinulog music. An offering of flowers will also be part of the program. And yes, there's food! Donations are accepted but not required. It's not only for the Visayan community but for Tagalogs, Ilocanos and even local folks because it really is a celebration of Christianity."

see SANTO NIÑO next page



The Santo Niño is housed at the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño de Cebu. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS: HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:SANTO\_NI%C3%B10\_DE\_CEBU \_3230.JPG



Frs. McHugh and Moran with the Santo Niño after World War II. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS: HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:SANTO\_NI%C3%B10\_AFTER\_ WW2.JPG



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# From the **Editor's Desk**

Vince Bagoyo, Jr. EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# **So Much to Celebrate**

and Look Forward to a Better and Brighter Future

turned out to be a good year for many reasons. The COVID-19 pandemic appears to be in our rearview mirror. Election denier candidates supported by the biggest denier of all, Trump, were soundly defeated during the mid-term elections. The anticipated red wave by the Republican Party did not pan out-and democracy prevailed instead. We thank the wise voters for making the right choices during a critical mid-term election. Now, we can look forward to a better future for all of us in the USA. But make no mistake, extremism is still an existential threat to our democratic process. We need to always stay on guard for the sake of preserving our democracy.

For my fellow Filipino Americans, there is so much to celebrate. In the recently held November 2022 mid-term elections—a historic number of Filipino Americans were elected to public offices for local, state and federal level positions. According to a recent press release from the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), there were forty-four Filipino Americans newly elected. This is a historic achievement of which we can all be happy and proud.

These Filipino American public officials offer a unique type of public service and leadership, rooted in their deep love and respect for their families, culture and communities. The highestranking Filipino American elected official is U.S. Representative Bobby Scott of Virginia's 3rd Congressional District, who has served this district since 1993. The highestranking elected state official is Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, which is home to more than 500,000 Filipinos. These achievements by so many Filipino American public officials are accomplishments to be celebrated and, we hope, will serve to inspire more of us to seek public office in order to be of service to the greater good.

As we enter the New Year with great anticipation, let us all be reminded the strength of our community is grounded in our unity, as we help, encourage, and lift each other up. For many of us, making our traditional New Year's resolutions is centered on ourselves like losing weight, saving and making more money, traveling, exercising more, eating healthier and so much more. Predictably, setting unreasonable resolutions will likely fail in the first month. Most people blame their failure to fulfill their resolutions on a lack of time and discipline, motivation or even blame it on their partners. And many of these resolutions are repeated year after

If we are to make New Year's resolutions this year, let it be God and Gospel-centered resolutions, focusing more on others and not about us. The following Bible verses should remind us of the goodness of God as we enter the New Year, as is found in Jeremiah 29:11–13, "For I know the plans for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a fu-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 7



Liezl Oandasan hoists the Santo Niño. PHOTO COURTESY LIEZL OANDASAN

# Santo Niño ...

from p. 3

"The Santo Niño is the oldest Christian artifact in the Philippines," explains Deacon Patrick Constantino, "which over five hundred years started Christianity in the Philippines. In and some of them were poisoned by 1521, Portuguese voyager Ferdinand Magellan sailing under the Spanish maining Spaniards to leave immediflag, landed in the Philippines. The ately. The survivors reached Spain in conquistador gifted the Santo Niño to the Rajah of Cebu-Rajah Humabon (baptized as Carlos in honor of King Charles) and his wife Reyna Humamay (baptized as Juana in honor of Lopez de Legazpi arrived in Cebu in Charles' mother)—on the occasion of April 1565. Legazpi's crew found the their Christian baptism." The Santo Niño was made of pure gold except house, still inside a wooden box. for the face.

anity. Datu Lapulapu from the island the Philippines. A church was built on of Mactan opposed Rajah Humabon

and Lapulapu refused to recognize Spain and convert to Christianity. At Humabon's urging, Magellan and a small group of his men traveled to Mactan, hoping to convince Lapulapu. But a battle ensued and on April 27, 1521, Magellan was killed. Magellan's men who survived returned to Cebu Humabon, who then ordered the re-1522.

The Christianization of the Philippines was placed on hold until the next Spaniard conquistador Miguel image of the Santo Niño in a burning Legazpi believed it was the same one Rajah Humabon later decreed the Magellan gifted to Humabon and Huneighboring chiefs to provide supplies mamay and ordered the Santo Niño to Magellan and to convert to Christi- be placed in the first church built in see SANTO NIÑO p.15



Members of the Sto. Niño Club of Maui perform the Sinulog at Queen Ka'ahumanu

PHOTO CEASAR LIZADA



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# **LINENGDENG** & PINAKBET

# **Settlors, Community** and Belonging

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Maui Filipino Community good speech (check the video on my Bessy Evangelista, among others. sister Velma's Facebook feed). Somemother presenting the remarks without reading glasses. At 94, my mother is in pretty good shape. No doubt her daily walks and physical activity for the provinces than island plantations.

to attend, I would have expressed puzzlement on why I would be receiving a citizenship award. After all, being a good citizen is such a minimal requirement for living in our community. As she recounted for me, I only deserve the award because the residents of this island impacted my life. I was born and raised on Maui, growing up mainly in Pā'ia (before that Mill closed) in a neighborhood where family and community had reers. meaning and value-you watched out and cared for your neighbors and their families because they looked out for yours. As she observed, the reciprocity of caring is the best aspect of the Filipino cultural trait of utang from our inner self and character.

amples of Filipino leaders who mentored and encouraged me like lawyer B. Martin Luna, trailblazing public citizen Richard "Pablo" Caldito, IL-

t the year-end Rizal Day retired police officer and churchman commemoration, my mother Rafael Acoba, "The General" Aggie Lydia Coloma accepted a Cabebe, community force of nature Nancy Andres, businessman Vince Council citizenship award on my be- Bagoyo, Councilmember Rick Medihalf. By all accounts, she delivered a na, and Manong Alfredo and Manang

I came back after going to school one on a table near where my sister on the mainland and seeing America. sat expressed appreciation for our I basically wanted to live, work, play and raise my family on Maui. It's where I considered home.

In doing so, I had the opportunity to work in the cabinets of Hawai'i help, as well as a diet more common Governor Ben Cayetano and Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa. Finally, I have been honored serving the residents of My mother reported if I were able Kahului, Wailuku, Waihe'e, Waiehu and Waikapū in the State legislature.

But I'm old enough to recognize Filipinos and the Filipino community throughout my life sometimes seem outside the mainstream. Our role seems reduced to cheap labor for the Visitor Industry's back of the house just as the Sakada generation provided the field workforce for the plantations or filling food and other service jobs not viewed as living wage ca-

At what point are Filipinos not just derisively described as settlors but recognized as equal and permanent residents of this community? Is hula a talent in a scholarship pageant but perhaps a Visayan folk dance is na loob—innate gratitude arising not as valued? And does that unspoken question about the alien-ness un-I was also lucky to watch the ex- derlie an uncomfortable suspicion that some will view Filipinos as akin to tourists here no matter how many generations have been born and died here—like the suggestion on social WU union organizer Pepito Ragasa, media during the pandemic that if



Velma (sister) and Lydia (mother) Coloma attend the Rizal Day Maria Clara & Barong Gala, December 30 at the Maui Beach Hotel's Moana Ballroom. PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

the hotels, like the plantations, fade away, so will the Filipinos, who can just go back to the Philippines.

Filipinos, especially immigrants, are not easily integrated into the local community completely. Newcomer children may not be on youth soccer or baseball teams with parents too busy in their jobs to attend games anyway. They may not participate in extracurriculars unless recruited by friends or a teacher. Even as Filipino children make up growing bodies, Filipino teachers have not

true in most workplaces. Tons of Filipino workers but few managers or executives. You see more Pinoy nurs-

es than doctors. There remain few kababayan examples in established businesses, financial institutions, law firms or academia. Admittedly, quite a number of local leaders might be part-Filipino but have an outlook reflecting their mixed-heritage in relating to the diaspora community. As a local-born Filipino, I plead guilty I lean decidedly American even though I'm a Full-Blooded Ilocano (FBI).

During the pandemic, I was struck by the folks who came to help with numbers in our public-school student food distributions at Binhi at Ani. As a Filipino organization, I expected countrymen but volunteers included A paucity of role models remains those with little obvious connection to the local Filipino community except perhaps some common associa-

see D&P p. 7



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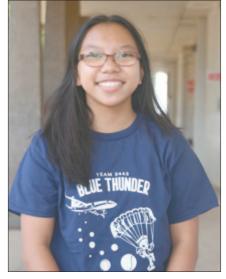
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Dexter Corpuz



Josh Lachica



Kyani Bateman

isn't the only channel with Filipino-culture implementation anymore. With the help of Disney's Raya and the Last Dragon, Marvel's Wave heroine, and various Filipino-American influencers and musicians, Filipino culture, language and traditions finally reached the box office, the Billboard Hot 100 list, and so much more. As Filipino-American representation in media grows throughout each generation, has it impacted today's youth?

"Filipino-Americans have been underrepresented or subjected to stereotypes in media, which has made it challenging for different audiences to understand the diversity and complexity of the Filipino-American community," commentated **Aleizay Angel**, a freshman at Maui High School. "It is important to see and hear one's own

# Google®

Is Not Everything ...

# Diversity and Complexity of Filipino Culture Increasingly Reflected in Media

Jazmyne Faith Viloria | Maul High School, Class of 2023

culture represented in the media they ing Ned's grandma in Spiderman No consume." Way Home mentioning and using Fil-

**Dexter Corpuz**, a University of Hawai'i West O'ahu graduate, realizes this as well, which explains why "seeing Ned's grandma in Spiderman No Way Home mentioning and using Filipino traditions and culture, from calling her 'Lola' to speaking the language in the movie, made me in awe and amazed to see my culture on the big screen like a Marvel film!" As bits of Filipino culture started to show in mainstream movie sets, dialogue and eventually a character, "I am grateful to see Filipinos have a great way to celebrate and share the unique aspects of their culture with a wider audience," Aleizay reflected.

"Her [Beabadoobee] sound is unique in the way you can tell it's heavily influenced by her upbringing in Iloilo City," Josh Lachica, a freshman at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, expresses. Beabadoobee's songs reflect on topics such as "It's okay not to be okay," childhood occurrences that influenced her present self, and many more. After analyzing today's mainstream artists of Filipino descent like Beabadoobee, it seems they chose to pay homage to their culture by incorporating cultural elements and childhood events to which Filipinos and a vast audience can relate. Josh explains it best as he noticed, "She [Beabadoobee] lets her music speak about her culture and lets it reach you naturally."

With Filipino representation in most media forms, it has also inspired youth to be a part of it. For example, Kvani Bateman, a senior at Kamehameha School Maui, built an audience from her extensive modeling background, former Miss Maui Teen USA title, and countless community service events. As her audience grew, Kyani saw this as an opportunity and created "a platform of community awareness, multicultural and multiethnic education. With this platform, I plan community events and give lessons all around the state about other cultures and how we all can come together to make our community healthier, stronger, and more sustainable." Through her platform, she hopes she "will be able to teach others more about Filipino activists like her (Gabriela Silang, Filipino social activist, one of Kyani's role model), to everyone excited to learn."

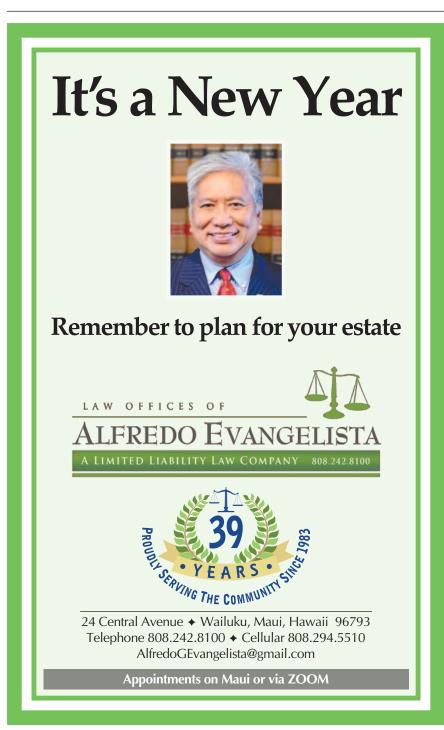
Impactful activists, famous music artists, TV shows, movies, and other media forms' incorporation of Filipino culture have not gone unnoticed as all generations, especially the youth, have celebrated all the homages of Filipino culture. From building a stronger sense of identity, recognizing certain events and stories as connections between diverse cultures and audiences, and influential upbringing platforms, all are keen roles in Filipino representation and impacting youth because in the words of Kyani, "Our ethnicities are a part of the root of our foundation to our journey in life." \*

#### ${\it Google} {\mathbb R}$ 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 trade-

mark. This month's guest columnist is Jazmvne Faith Viloria, 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 clothes. old journals, photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. She is the daughter of Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Viloria.





Former Gov. Ben Cayetano (center) is shown here during his administration. Keith-Agaran is shown 2nd from left.

# D&P ...

from p. 5

tion—a church, working place or perhaps friendship. The young people deployed to the project from the local National Guard units included quite a number of Filipinos—some born here and some immigrantsincluding the officer corps. The people who drove through to accept food boxes reflected the broader Maui population.

Throughout my life, I have volunteered for various Maui non-profits and Filipino community groups and worked on projects with people

from a variety of backgrounds. I never really gave much regard to the kinds of people in the clubs, or who showed up to volunteer, or the type of people we were helping. We partici-

help those who needed it.

But I can understand the head because his parents were working.

counting impulse often occurring after an election. How many Filipinos are working for the Governor or Mayor, and in what kind of positions? Governor Cayetano got a bit of a pass since he was a member of the tribe but even he didn't satisfy some Pinoy leaders. But political patronage is never a fair measure whether an elected official cares for or respects the Filipino community because they are responsible for the entire population, whether those people supported them. But I would never attempt to explain away the questions that arise just as I would never be a judge in a Filipino scholarship pageant.



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran practices law in Wailuku with Takitani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLLP. He represents Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Sen-

pated as residents of this island to ate. When he played youth sports, his retired grandfather attended games



Councilmembers before their organizational meeting. PHOTO: GIL KEITH-AGARAN

## Directors ...

from p. 2

represented at the top executive levels of state and local governments. Government leaders must work towards a more diverse governing team representing a culturally diverse population's hopes, dreams, needs and aspirations."

In fairness to Mayor Bissen and other Mayors, the appointment of Cabinets, and of Filipinos as department Directors is not easy. First, the application process is confidential so except for members of the transition team, no one knows the full pool of applicants. Few people outside of the

process would know if anyone of Filipino ancestry applied to become a department Director and whether that applicant met the requirements and qualifications for selection. Second, whether a Mayor actively recruited Filipino applicants, privacy concerns for personnel issues prohibit disclosure. (Four years ago, during an interview with The Fil-Am Voice, Victorino shared he asked four Filipinos-without naming them—to join his cabinet but they all declined.) Third, two of the departments (Corporation Counsel and Prosecuting Attorney) require a specific credential; for those two departments a law license. Quick question: How many active attorneys of

see DIRECTORS p.9

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

ture. Then you will call on me and • Seek God's wisdom; come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek with all your heart." These verses happen to be some of my favorites—to know that God's plan for our lives is so much better and more rewarding than our plan.

Here are some ideas that you may want to consider as your New Year's resolutions, and watch how God will bless you:

- Let us do things that are pleasing to God;
- Do the work of our Lord; • Always walk by faith;
- Rejoice in the Lord;
- · Let's give thanks for everything, and even our challenges;
- Let Christ be exalted in everything we do and for His Glory;
- Be humble always;

• Always extend forgiveness, even to those who may have wronged us; and

• Be a peacemaker.

We at The Fil-Am Voice are grateful for your continued support and patronage, so we can continue to deliver stories and articles that reflect the uniqueness of our community. We hope and pray you and your 'ohana experience an abundance of peace and blessings during this coming year. May you and your family be filled with joy and renewed hope in 2023 and beyond. Let's all reflect on and be thankful for the many blessings this past year. \*\*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

### **Community... In Action**

Anak ti San Nicolas Maui Chapter holiday celebration.

PHOTO COURTESY ANAK TI SAN NICOLAS MAUI

The children of the late Aggie Cabebe Marcia and Raymond at A **Bayanihan Christmas:** Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser.

PHOTO: FREDDY GODOY

BINHI AT AN



Рното: CEASAR LIZADA **PHOTOGRAPHY** 



Register NOW for this year's Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



#### ANNAK TI SAN NICOLAS. MAUI CHAPTER

Members of the Annak Ti San Nicolas, Maui Chapter celebrated the holidays at the residence of their Treasurer Edwin Caraang.

AINHI AT AN

#### **BINHI AT ANI**

Celebrate your special events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,150 (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 there will be 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.

#### A Bayanihan Christmas: Aggie Cabebe **Scholarship Fundraiser**

Fundraiser The raised enough funds to be able to award three \$2,000 scholarships as part of Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program. The 2023 Fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

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 a.m. (breakfast bento 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

#### **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 December 31, a total of 11,842 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

Create a Team by signing up: https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8.

# **COMMUNITY...** IN ACTION

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

Tax-deductible donations are accepted for Homebound and Kupuna Parishioners via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card with Anointing of the Sick at St. Marianne https://binhiatani.org/donate/ or by mailing a check payable to Binhi

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

Enhance®Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes are continuing. They are held on Monday,

Wednesday and Friday

from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enhance®Fitness is a low-cost ongoing evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program helping older adults at all levels of fitness to become more active, energized and empowered to sustain independent

lives. For more information on Enhance®Fitness, contact Enhance®Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or gkiick@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudettte Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co. maui.hi.us.

#### MARIA LANAKILA FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB

Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club is preparing for the February 11, 2023 Mass Hall at 11 a.m. Lunch bento and fellowship to follow.

#### **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 percent 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 was held on December 29.

Madison Yu-Cua was awarded the Outstanding Youth Award. Yu-Cua is a senior at Lahainaluna HS with a grade point average of 4.4, currently ranking 1/236. She is active in student government and is the Senior Class President. Yu-Cua is also a member of the National Honor Society where she serves as Chapter President. She will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Lahainaluna HS Class of 2023 commencement exercises.

Gregory Torricer Peros was awarded



PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



team helps with the Bayanihan Feeding Program. PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL







**Rizal Day Most Outstanding Awardees** 









Madison Yu-Cua

the Outstanding Member Award. Peros' roots are from Santo Domingo, in the Province of Ilocos Sur. His father was a Sakada who worked for H.C.&S. Peros graduated from Baldwin HS and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He returned home in 1968 and joined the Maui Police Department in 1976 and retired in 1999. In 1991, Peros was awarded both the Maui County Police Officer of the Year award and the State of Hawai'i Police Officer of the Year award. Peros has served the Filipino community for over fifty years, and has held leadership positions in several organizations.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran was awarded the Outstanding Citizen Award. Keith-Agaran is currently the State Senator for District 5 (Kahului, Pu'unēnē, Waihe'e, Waikapū Mauka, and Wailuku) and serves as the Vice Chairperson of the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee, where

he is the lead negotiator on state capital improvement projects. Keith-Agaran previously served as a State Representative for Kahului. Keith-Agaran also served on the cabinet Governor Benjamin

Cayetano (Chairperson, Board of Land & Natural Resources; Director, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations; Deputy Director, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and Deputy Director, Department of Land & Natural Resources) and Mayor Alan Arakawa (Director, Department of Public Works). Keith-Agaran is a partner in the Takitani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman LLLP law firm. He is an alum of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley; Yale College; and Maui HS.

Erlinda Rosario was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Rosario is a McDonald's franchisee owner/operator of six restaurants on Maui (Kahului, Kahana, Lahaina, Pukalani, Dairy Road and Wal-Mart of Kahului). Her son Grelyn owns and operates three restaurants on the North Shore on O'ahu. Rosario began her career with McDonald's in 1970, newly arrived from the Province of Ilocos Sur, at the age of 18. She began as a crew member at Waiakamilo, rose to a store manager at Waipahu and in 1982 became the area supervisor of six Honolulu restaurants. In 1988. Rosario became a field consultant and worked with McDonald's franchisees. Rosario became a franchise owner herself in 1990 with the Pukalani restaurant.

#### PHILIPPINE NURSES **ASSOCIATION OF** MAUI, HAWAI'I

Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i will be hosting the 21st PNAA Western Region Conference on April 20-23, 2023 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Themed "Lokahi (United): We Care," the Conference will bring together

twelve chapters of the Philippine Nurses Association of America's Western Region and will showcase excellence in leadership, education, research and exemplary clinical practice. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, advertiser, exhibitor and/or vendor (the deadline is February 20, 2023), please contact PNAMHi President Angelina Saiki at angelsaiki@ aol.com or PNAMHi Executive Director Lucy Christine Porte at lucychristin@hot mail.com. 🌟



### Directors ...

from p. 7

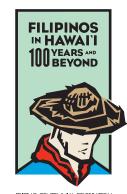
Filipino ancestry live on Maui? Probably at the most a dozen, which is not an exceptionally large pool of applicants. Fourth, a qualified applicant must be willing to accept the pay scale of the public sector, normally less than the private sector. Finally, qualified applicants may not want to subject themselves and their families through the County Council confirmation process, which can include sometimes combative and harsh public testimony. Until recently only the County legal department heads and the Water director required County Council approval. (During the recent organizational meeting of the County Council, some of the Council's appointees were called names and as well as senior staff and filled varidiculed).

James "Kimo" Apana, who was elected Mayor in 1999, explains why he did not initially appoint any Filipinos as directors of the departments. "For me, the majority of my Directors were either a Director or a Deputy in a prior administration. I didn't want to throw anybody straight into the fire." When Apana's Managing Director Grant Chun left for the private sector late in Apana's term, Michelle

of Apana's term.

Even Governor Benjamin Cayetano's selections received scrutiny for a paucity of Filipinos in his first cabinet. Every time Cayetano announced appointments, a small group of Filipino leaders would show up to observe, watching for a cabinet director. In his eight years as Governor, Cayetano appointed four Filipinos as Directors: Leonard Agor, as director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Sam Callejo, as State Comptroller for the Department of Accounting and General Services; Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, as Chairman of the Board of Land & Natural Resources and as director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; and George Iranon as director of the Department of Public Safety. (Cayetano did select a number of Filipinos as Deputy Directors cancies in the Judiciary and the Leg-

islature.)



First Hawaiian Bank

New Governor Josh Green appointed three Filipinos as Directors: Luis Salaveria as the Director of Budget and Finance, Catherine Betts as Director of Human Services and Jade Butay as Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. (Butay served as Director of Transportation under Governor Ige. Salaveria served as Director of the Business, Economic Development and

Manibog Yoshimura was appointed Tourism under Governor Ige. Betts Managing Director for the remainder served as Director of Human Services see DIRECTORS p.15



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### Ti Biag ken Pammati

"Life and Faith"



Our Maui church youth attending the "Catholic National Youth Conference" in November 2022 in Anaheim, California. Our future leaders!



Our children at St. Joseph Church during the Christmas Eve program—the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

# Epiphany—A Sign in the Heavens, Begins a New Year 2023

A reflection from Matthew 2:1–12

Deacon Patrick Constantino | Photos courtesy Deacon Pulido 'Ohana

piphany calls us to come and see the Lord and know that Jesus is with us at the masses, and know Jesus as Priest, Prophet and King. Jesus is our Priest; Jesus is our Prophet and Jesus is our King.

Our scripture lesson for today concerns three men who saw a sign in the Heavens. That sign was a star leading them to a house where lay the newborn King of Kings.

Welcome to this celebration of Epiphany. When we think of Epiphany many of us think of the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas. The idea of the twelve tradition the wise men, or magi as many miles from three different dithey are often called, arrived to worship the Christ child twelve days after his birth. You will remember in together by that star, and they dis-Matthew's telling of the Christmas covered they were on the same misstory, the wise men are said to have sion. So they banded together to gone "into a house where the young continue the journey. They made child was." There is no mention of an inn or a stable or even a manger. Moab and past the rebuilt town of Of course, there is no mention of Jericho. twelve days either.

have gotten a little crowded. It's all January 6 as the day to celebrate the Christ Child.

three six-year-old boys who were playing the wise men in their church Christmas program. As they came up to the place where Mary and Joseph were staying, the first one handed over his present and said, "Gold." The second presented his gift and said, "Myrrh." The third one then gave his treasure and said, "And Frank sent this."



rections, they encountered each other in the desert. They were brought their way past the mountains of

Finally, they entered the Holy City Actually, there is no mention of Jerusalem. It was there they were there were three of these wise men interrogated by Herod. Together for that matter. There could have they left his court and once again been five or six wise men or a hun- followed the star until it came to rest dred but I suspect the house would over the stable of Bethlehem. Together they knelt before the Christ tradition, at least in the Western child and offered their gifts. They church, but it's a beautiful tradition were from three different parts of and, in the same way the church se- the world, their skin bore different lected December 25 as the tradition- shades of color, but they were joined al date for Christ's birth, it selected together in their adoration of the darkness could not overcome. It ed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of

gifts of gold, frankincense and is a good tradition for it speaks of God's eternal purpose that all peo-You may have heard about the ple, everywhere, should know of God's love and God's salvation. Which brings us to the first thing we need to remember of this Day of the Epiphany. God doesn't play favorites with persons or nations. That is what Simon Peter discovered according to an important story later in the book of Acts. It was a real struggle for the early church to discern whether their mission was only to Jews alone or Well, it's possible one of the wise whether it was possible for Gentiles men could have been named Frank. to join the family of Christ as well.

days of Christmas is based on the "And Frank sent this." After traveling God showed Simon Peter no one was to be excluded. Christ died for all. That is an important truth of Scrip-

> We all know that under the skin, against people of other religions, nationalities and races are as old as human nature. Sometimes, however, God does choose individual persons or nations for a particular task. This is the story of the nation of Israel.

Israel was called to be a light to the nations of the world. They were chosen for this task. It was not that God loved Israel more than he loved the other nations—though Israel ofholiness for all the world. When Israel was not faithful to God's call, God sent a light into the world that no was in government—first appointwas the light of Jesus Christ. Jesus Arms by the Speaker of the House coming of the magi to offer their Again, it is only a tradition but it then selected some men and women Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho to continue his work of shining God's became Maui's first Mayor, Constantilight in the world.

church of Jesus Christ, this is our calling: We are to continue the task of shining Christ's light into the world. The word Epiphany is from a Greek word which literally means "coming to light," or "shining



forth." As followers of Christ, we are to bring light to the world. Think of the many benefits of light. A lighthouse steers ships away from the rocks. A light bulb lights up a room. A small candle can bring light to a

Light does not exist for its own glory but to brighten up the world. The little spiritual proclaims, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!" This proclamation is sung at our 9 a.m. Mass every Sunday, as a blessing for our children, by "The Spirit of Grace Choir" led by Michael Balderas. That's God's call to each of us! The wise men saw a sign in the heavens and the world has never been

God's blessings of love, from our we are one family but prejudices family to your family! Happy New Year, 2023! 🌟

On July 1, 2022, Patrick Con**stantino** retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i, after serving 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 ten interpreted God's call in that St. Gabriel Church in Ke'anae. His way. Israel was to set an example of last assignment before retiring was at St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

Prior to his ordination, Constantino became his Executive Assistant-That brings us to the final thing to the first of Filipino ancestry. Later,

> 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.

## **Let's Talk Pinoy!**



appy New Year! Naragsak Nga Baro a Tawen! (Ilokano) Manigong Bagong Taon! (Tagalog) Maayong Bag-ong Tuig! (Cebuano) Malipayong nga Bag-ong Tuig! (Ilonggo) Magayaya ka ta bagu nga dagun! (Ibanag) Masaplalang bayung Banwa! (Kapampangan)

That's a wrap! We survived your ups and downs and we are still standing, smiling and waving you goodbye 2022.

Hello and welcome 2023. We have great hopes for you. We hope you bring us many blessings.

# et's Talk Pinay!

#### **Dulce Karen Butay**

the rabbit in the Chinese calendar? Did you do any of the traditions like wearing polka dots, having coins in your pockets or jumping at the stroke of midnight? Well, I didn't do any of er you did, I hope it will bring you those to make a difference this year. I wore stripes so I will have bills and

How did you welcome this year of not coins. I had a variety of dollar bills in my pocket and lifted my left foot at the stroke of midnight to make sure I step into the new year with the right foot. Anyways, whatevgood fortune or good luck this new

Shout out to our January birthday celebrants: Bessy Evangelista, Kallie Keith-Agaran, Roxanne Mae Alibin, Camille Rhianna Butay Hayen. Happy, Happy birthday to you! Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan! (Tagalog) Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo! (Ilokano) Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu! (Ibanag) Masayang kebaitan queca! (Kapampangan) Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo! (Ilonggo)

Let's visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what's going on with them this month, shall we?

"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! ľm begging you, please."

"Ano (What) are you talking about lady?" Angel couldn't control herself any-

"You know hani (what) you did," says the Mom.

"Ana (What) did I do?" she asks confus-

"You are on video.

They are coming after you!" the Mom exclaims.

"Nanoyin?! (What?!)" Angel asks.

Angel gasps. "Ano? (What?) Killed ano? (what?) Ana (what) cop?" Angel asks confusedly.

"The cop you killed in Honolulu. I know you did it," the Mom says so

Angel is hardly able to breathe ... her kasingkasing (heart) skips a beat. "Uh ... uh ... " is all Angel manages to murmur from her lips. Wala (Nothing) comes out from her mouth to say.

"Angel, turn yourself in. There are detectives out looking for you. Where are you? Please bring my baby home now and turn yourself in ngayon (today)," the Mom says so calmly even if it feels like her puso (heart) is racing.

"Baby? Sino (Who) is your baby? I did not kidnap anybody. I did not kill a cop. Why would the detectives be looking for me?" Angel asks confused-

"My baby ... my Mikey ... please let him go ..." the Mom pleads to her.

English	Pilipino	llokano	Cebuano	llonggo	lbanag	Kapampangan
Today	Ngayon	Ita nga Aldaw	Karun	Subong	Sangaw	Ngeni
Heart	Puso	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason	Tutu	Puso
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamut	Lima	Gamat
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawong	Goya	Mukat	Arap
Who?	Sino?	Sinno?	Kinsa?	Sino?	Sinni?	Ninoymi?
Nothing	Wala	Awan	Yamo	Wala	Awan	Ala
Street	Kalye	Dalan	Dalan	Dalan	Dalang	Kalye
No	Hindi	Haan	Awan	Indi	Dili	Indi
House	Bahay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni'?	Nanoyin?

"Uh, uh, uh," Angel is completely frozen. Her nawong (face) turns white.

"Where is Mikey? Please put him "You killed that cop!" exclaims the on the phone right now!" Mom says

Angel cries a deep painful sound.

"Angel?" Mom says and stops for a moment to listen to the person on the other line. She hears Angel cry.

Angel's cry is deep and pure. Laced with pain and torture. Flooded with fear and sorrow.

Mom stops in a frozen moment as her cry pierces her korason (heart).

"Angel?!" Mom says.

But Angel continues to cry, she cannot hear the other person.

"Angel stop crying" Mom says calmly. "What happened?" she asks as Mom's natural motherly instincts kick

Angel's cry begins to make Mom cry as well.

Michael's Dad looks at his wife as she gets teary eyed. "What the heck is going on here?" he asks.

"Angel, what happened? Is Mikey ok?" Mom says with a shaken voice now. "We are in the balay (house) right now. Bring him here and we all

can talk here," Mom says.

Angel, with tears falling in her eyes, shakes Michael to wake him up. Michael opens his eyes and his goya (face) looks confused. The mukat (face) of Angel looks terrible. Michael quickly sits up straight and realizes something is wrong. He naturally lifts his hands to touch her arap (face). His tutu (heart) is pierced from seeing her crving.

"Ana (What) is wrong, my love?" Michael asks.

Angel mutts out words nobody can understand.

her mouth.

"Huh?! Nanoyin (What) are you saying?' Michael asks.

Angel lifts her kamut (hand) and points her other kamay (hand) with the phone.

He sees the light on his phone. It is on. He takes it from her ima (hand) and looks at who is on the other line.

It says, MOM. His mukha (face) turns white.

Mom is on the phone, he says to himself.

Mikey!" "Mikey! Mom screams. Angel gives the

phone to Michael. Michael stares at the

phone. He is blank. Angel grabs his kamay (hand) and gives

the phone to him. He stares at her blankly.

What is Michael going to do with the phone? Is he going to talk to his Mom? What is he going to say?

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 makinig (listen), and Let's Talk Pinoy! Hanggang sa muli! (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!) \*\*

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and 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 Coun "Ah oh ah oh ah," Angel says ty of Maui, Department of Finance. Bubut awan (nothing) comes out from tay 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.

## **Sakada Offspring**



Lydia Ligaya Macadangdang Merrigan



Sam (Melissa's Fiancé), Melissa, Lydia and Mike

# Lydia Ligaya Macadangdang Merrigan

Lucy Peros | All Photos courtesy Macadangdang Merrigan 'Ohana

Merrigan was born on Novem-Hawai'i. She attended Saint Anthony Catholic Grade School up to second grade then transferred to Wailuku Elementary School. She also attended 'Īao Middle School and H.P. Baldwin High School, graduating in 1973. She then attended Maui Community Col-Maui College. She received an Associate of Arts Degree in 1975. She con- worked for the WIC (Women Infant

Hawai'i at Mānoa campus from ber 7, 1955 in Wailuku, Maui, 1975-1976. Then she attended Oregon State University on the University Exchange Program the next year. She enjoyed OSU so much she decided to remain there for a couple more years. She received her Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Lydia was a registered and licensed lege, now called University of Hawai'i Pediatric Clinical Dietitian for twentyfive years and is now retired. She

funded program in Clark County, Washington for eleven years as a public health nutritionist. She was a member of the Nutrition Network Group for Children with Special Health Needs at the University of Washington for twenty-two years, with selective membership which provided her with continuing education and training for the pediatric special need population. Her last thirteen years of employment was with Providence Center for Medically Fragile Children in Portland, a long-term care facility serving children from birth to twenty-one years with complex medical needs where she worked as clinical pediatric dietitian. Now that she is retired, she enjoys doing ministries at her church, participating in programs at the Milwaukie Community Center, traveling with her husband, visiting with friends, golfing, playing bocce ball-Club Paesano Bocce League (similar to a lawn bowling), Tai Chi, cooking and baking. She also enjoys beginner quilting, hula, yoga, wine tasting, and dinner club get-together with her friends.

Lydia married Michael Joseph Merrigan in 1988. Michael attended the University of Notre Dame in South

ydia Ligaya Macadangdang tinued her studies at the University of and Children) program, a Federally degree in Business Administration. He retired from Providence Health and Services, serving as Director of Finance through his retirement. They have one daughter Melissa Kanoelani Merrigan who attended the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in Chemistry in 2014. She completed a doctorate program in nursing through Oregon Health Science University, Doctor of Nurse Practice in 2021. She is employed as a primary care provider in rural Klamath Falls, Oregon at Cascades East Family Medicine Clinic.

> Lydia is a well-rounded individual. From 1970 through 1972, she was the President of the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir and the Youth Representative to the Maui Filipino Community Council. She was a Girl Scout Leader-Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington, 1998-2004. She was a Parent Volunteer for First Tee Program, Youth Golf in 1999-2006. Currently, she is a Milwaukie Community Center events volunteer for the Meals on Wheels Program, 'Ukulele Jammers, Stumptown Strummers 'Ukulele Group. At St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church Bend, Indiana, receiving a Bachelor's in Milwaukie, Oregon, Lydia is in-

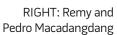




First row: Melissa Merrigan, Remy Macadangdang, Pedro Macadangdang, Thomas Hayashi. Second row: Andreano Farinas, Ric Farinas, Ruby Farinas, Lydia Merrigan, Agnes Hayashi, Duane Hayashi. Top row: Mike Merrigan, Celina Hayashi, Wesley



LEFT: Mike and Lydia Merrigan





volved in various ministries like Pastoral Care Team, Saint Martha's Guild, Feed the Hungry, Inc. program at St. John's, lector and usher.

Lydia received several prestigious awards. In 1973, she represented the Maui Filipino Community Council as the third Annual Miss Barrio Fiesta. She received recognition from Providence Center for Medically Fragile Children for providing excellent work in nutrition therapy. From Clark County Department of Health, she was recognized for excellence in providing nutrition therapy to Children with Special Health Care needs in the community, collaborating with Vancouver Children's Therapy Center. Lydia was instrumental in setting up collaboration with National Charity League-Sunnyside Chapter and Feed the Hungry, Inc. program which continues today. At St. John's Episcopal Church, she was recognized for service as a vestry member and the Sunday School ministry.

Lydia is the eldest of three daughters. One sibling is Ruby Tessie Macadangdang Farinas, married to Ricardo Farinas. They have one son, Andreano Farinas. Ruby recently retired this month as an occupational therapist. She worked as a clinical specialist in geriatrics for the Veterans Ad-

ministration Hospital in Seattle for the past 39 years. Ricardo works at the Employment Security Division for the State of Washington as a College Liaison. Their son Andreano works for Microsoft as a Senior Project Manager.

Lydia's youngest sibling is Agnes Hayashi. She has been employed with Maui County for the past twenty-three years. She is the Senior Executive Assistant to the Managing Director of the County of Maui. She is married to Duane Hayashi. They have three children: Wesley Sebastian Hayashi of Beaverton, Oregon. Wesley is the Information Technician at the Beaverton School District. Dr. Celina Hayashi is a Medical Doctor at Hoʻola Lahui Hawai'i Medical Health Clinic. She and her husband Ryan Rautureau reside in Kapa'a,

Miss Hawaiʻi Filipina. Thomas Hayashi of San Francisco, California is a Research Data Analyst at the California Department of Public Health via The Sequoia Foundation.

Lydia is the daughter of the late Sakada Pedro "Pedring" Sales Macadangdang and Remigia "Remy" Ulnagan Macadangdang. Pedro was born in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines on January 17, 1923. He grew up in Bacarra and moved to Isabela when he was a young man. During World War II, while in Isabela, he joined the guerilla, 14th infantry, 1st battalion, Company A for two years from 1943-1945. After the war, he went back to Bacarra to visit his parents and at that time the Sakada recruiters were there to recruit strong young men to come to Hawai'i to work in the pineapple and sugar plan-

One of his uncles had a petition to come to Hawai'i but unfortunately he was not able to come because he was attending college. So Pedro took advantage of his uncle's unused petition and that gave him the opportunity to come to Hawai'i as a *Sakada*.

Before he came to Hawai'i, he was already engaged to his faithful and loving wife, Remy Ulnagan Macadan-



Kaua'i. Celina was also a former Pedro and Remy Macadangdang's Wedding

gdang whom he married in 1953 when he went back to the Philippines after six years of being in Hawai'i. Remy followed her husband to Hawai'i in 1954.

Pedro left the Philippines in February 1946 aboard the ship, *S.S. Maunawili*. Though many of his shipmates got very seasick, Pedro did not get too sick. While on the *S.S. Maunawili*, he was able to fix his petition papers and change his Uncle's name to his. Pedro's original destination when he arrived in Hawai'i was the Wailua Plantation on Oʻahu. In turn, he came to

the Wailuku Sugar Plantation on Maui.

While at Wailuku Sugar, he lived with ten other *Sakadas* at their Piihana (Happy Valley) residence. With this many housemates, to cook their food, they lined up their pots on a horizontal makeshift grill over an open fire. Whoever was the first to wake up in the morning would be responsible for starting the fire for the rest of the housemates. They cooked this way until the company provided them with kerosene stoves. Some of

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



## Sakada Offspring | Cont'd from p.17



Lydia Merrigan and Dad Pedro Macadangdang

his housemates were: Aniceto Cabanting, Adriano Sales, Flor Caberto, Quido Cabanting, Melecio "Abat" Cabanting and Juan Cabanting, all deceased.

Pedro's day's work began at 4 a.m. to prepare his lunch (balon). He worked for ten hours, twenty-eight cents an hour wage. To compensate for the low wage, Pedro had free electricity, free rent, free water and free medical until the company became unionized.

At Wailuku Sugar, he first worked as a bulldozer driver but claimed it was a bit dusty. So Pedro headed to the Waihe'e Dairy. He worked there as a tool room deeper, milked the cows, pasteurized and bottled the milk. Pedro worked there until it closed. After

Waihe'e Dairy, he worked at the Wailuku Sugar Mill as a Crew Chief. Pedro ran the machines at the mill. He worked there until he had brain tumor surgery in 1984. He was then on disability for a couple of years and retired at the age of 65 in

Pedro Macadangdang is a life-long learner. As a pro-education himself, in 1975, he attended Maui Community College (now University called Hawai'i Maui College) and took up machinist, welding, and blueprint reading courses paid by

Wailuku Sugar. He and Remy extended that love of learning to their three beautiful daughters, Lydia Ligaya Merrigan, Ruby Tessie Farinas, and Agnes Hayashi.

The following is Lydia's personal reflection on her parents Pedro "Pedring" and Remigia "Remy" Macadangdang.

I am so grateful to my parents Pedro and Remigia Macadangdang for the values they instilled in me. At a very young age they ingrained in me the importance of education. My dad often expressed how he himself wanted to go to school but was told by his parents that he needed to work to help support their large family. So he did not go past grade school. Instead, he began working



Lydia Ligaya Merrigan, Miss Barrio Fiesta 1973, at the 50th Annual Barrio Fiesta, May 2019

to support the family at a very young age. This experience kindled in him a desire to immigrate to Hawai'i in search of a better life. I recall how my parents worked multiple jobs to provide economic stability and a comfortable life for us. Mom and Dad would say, Narigat ti Biag, Anak ko (Life is hard, my child), so you need to go to school and get college education so you don't have to work several jobs like us. To give us a head start on our education, my Mom would set up a make-shift school in our dining room. I remember Mom propped up a black chalkboard against the dining room table where she would teach us to read simple words and sentences and use flash cards to teach us addition and subtraction. This was shortly before I entered Saint Anthony Grade School. Obviously, even from a very young age, there was no question my sisters and I needed to plan for college after high school. Both my husband and I also value ed-

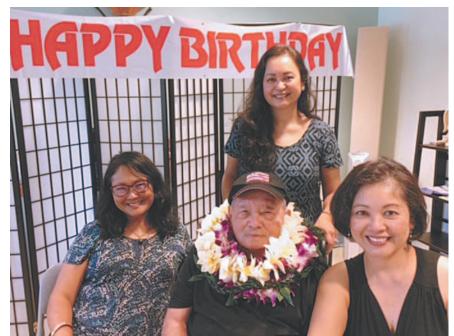
ucation and we are proud our daughter shares the same values. Mom and Dad were very active in the church—Good Shepherd Church in Wailuku. Their involvement with the church helped connect me to my Filipino roots. Good Shepherd's Filipino influence was fostered by its long-time priest, Father Justo Andres and his wife, Manang Nancy Andres, who served as our choir director. With several young Filipino families in the congregation, we formed the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir. We learned our Filipino culture through music and dance. Also, participation in the Barrio Fiesta through our formative years exposed us to our rich Filipino culture. We learned to play the Filipino bamboo instrument the 'Anklung.' We entertained at churches and Filipino community events with singing and dancing. Mrs. Aggie Cabebe taught the younger members of our choir the Filipino dances. I was one of the older members so we were given roles of announcers for the wherever program choir/dance troupe performed. I learned about my culture

and heritage through my parents and through Manang Nancy and Father Andres. I take pride in being a Filipina. I am thankful for my parent's dedication to the church, which has exposed me to Christian teachings and values that I try to live up to. My Good Shepherd Church peers continue to be active in the church. And even though I live on the mainland, I make it a point to visit Good Shepherd Church whenever I return to my Maui home. 🌟

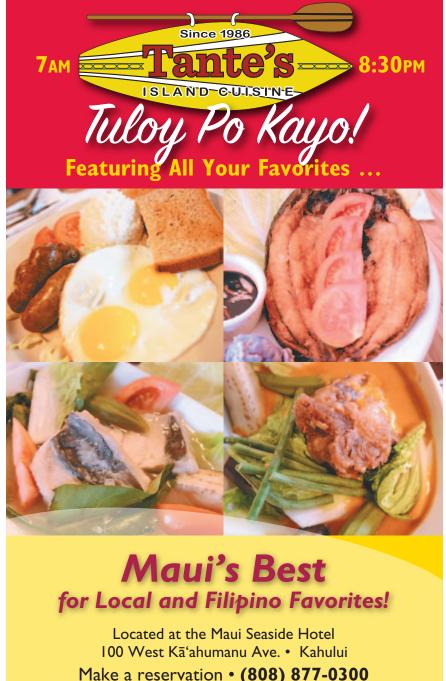
Lucy Peros is a retired schoolteacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Cabudoy Cabalo Alejandra Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to 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.





Celebrating Dad's 95th birthday, January 17, 2018. Three daughters, Lydia Merrigan, Pedro Macadangdang, Agnes Hayashi, and Ruby Farinas share a moment with dad.



# Kwento Mentuhan

# **Joy in 2023**

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog"

time you are reading this and a joyful attitude. column we are about two or three weeks into 2023. How is those qualities are rare. But the secyour new year going so far?

tuhan here at The Fil-Am Voice, you find but compared to an attitude of know at the start of the year I choose a "Word For The Year" to be my intention and guide for the year. This year that word is JOY!

needed in our lives. When we look at the news today it can be discouraging and depressing. When we look around, there are many people with heavy hearts. While I am not suggesting we go in a state of denial or false positivity and just simply say "Don't worry, be happy" all the time, I feel understanding what it means to be "joyful in all circumstances" and applying that in our lives do matter and will help make a difference. Do you also want to learn more about JOY in 2023? Let's dive into it.

#### What is JOY?

In Brene Bworen's latest book titled Atlas of the Heart, she writes she loves thinking of JOY as "the good mood of the soul." She defines JOY as an intense feeling of deep spiritual connection, pleasure and apprecia-

#### Why Choose JOY?

JOY helps us get through tough times in our lives. In the book Laugh Again by Charles Swindoll, he shares

this story about Mother Teresa:

Someone asked Mother Theresa what the job description was for anyone who might wish to work alongside her in the grimy streets and narrow alleys of Calcutta. Without hesitation she mentioned only

appy New Year! By the two things: the desire to work hard

Swindoll continues, saying both of ond (JOY) is much rarer than the If you have read Kwentu-Kwen- first. Diligence may be difficult to genuine JOY, hardwork is common

This reminds me of one of my favorite Bible verses, in Nehemiah, More than ever, I feel JOY is when God reminded us the JOY of the Lord is our strength.

#### Comparison is the Thief of JOY

One major cause of the lack of JOY in our lives is comparison. In this era of social media, we are exposed to many highlight reels of life and can easily fall into comparision. Then we feel sorry for ourselves for not having enough, for not being as beautiful, for not being able to travel and so on. An antidote to comparison is gratitude. Many researchers describe the relationship between joy and gratitude as an "intriguing upward spiral." In the book Atlas of the Heart, it explains how this spiral

Gratitude predicts greater future experiences of in-the-moment JOY

JOY predicts greater future experiences of in-the-moment Gratitude

And dispositional or situational JOY predicts greater future subjective well-being.

It all spirals up.

#### **JOY in 2023**

So, yes, I am choosing to be joyful

in 2023! How about you? What are you choosing to be in 2023? There are many traits to choose from, there are many paths to take. As for me, I am choosing JOY. May you choose the path that will bring you a prosper-

the best in 2023! \*\*

Joy is a choice we

must make each day

Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She's ous, happy new year. We considers Maui her home. A wife, a the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.

at The Fil-Am Voice are wishing you mother, a friend ... and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an 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 been living on Maui since 1994 and Estate Brokers. She is the author of



When I walk on the beaches of Maui, I think of Joy. Wishing you all a joyful 2023.



# Santo Niño ...

from p. 4

the site and named El Santisimo Nombre de Jesus (The Holy Name of Jesus). which is now the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño de Cebu.

A plaque at the Basilica reads: The Church and Convent erected by the Augustinian Fathers under the Rev. Andres Urdaneta in 1565 were the first established in the Philippines. Both were burned down on November 1, 1566. The second church was likewise destroyed by fire in March of 1628. But rebuilt soon after (1628-1629) under the administration of the Historian Rev. Juan Medina, O.S.A. The present massive church was designed and constructed during the priorship of Rev. Juan Albarran, O.S.A. (1735–1737). The Santo Niño, venerated in this church since the time of Legazpi, is the center of intense devotion

and religious pilgrimages throughout the

Nearby is The Cross of Magellan, where a plaque reads: From time immemorial this spot has been set aside to commemorate the erection of a cross in Cebu by the expedition of Magellan. When King Humabon of Cebu and his Queen, son and daughters, together with some 800 of their subjects were baptized by Father Pedro Valderrama. This hallowed site was improved in 1735 by Rev. Juan Albarran, Prior of San Agustin and in 1834 by Rt. Rev. Santos Gomez Marañon, Bishop of Cebu. The image of Santo Niño found by the expedition of Legazpi in a house near the present site of the Cathedral of Cebu is venerated by the faithful in the nearby Church of San Agustin.

In 1575, the Santo Niño was apparently brought to Spain as booty to the King of Spain-and then somehow resee SANTO NIÑO back page

# Directors ...

from p. 9

under Governor Ige.)

marked 100 years since the first California (1980) after graduating Sakadas arrived in Hawai'i in 2006, from Maui High School (1976) and celebrating with pride a century of before receiving his law degree from accomplishments. Many in the com- the University of California at Los Anmunity boasted "The Filipinos have arrived."

considerable progress throughout is- Law Company, concentrating in estate land society since 1906. But until Fil-

ipinos regularly hold seats not only as political appointees but also members of the Board of Directors of major local corporations and businesses, can the community truly boast and say, "We have arrived."

Until then, the local Pinoy pundits can only count the Manongs and Manangs ... \*

Alfredo G. Evangelista received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Sci-Hawai'i's Filipino community ence from the University of Southern geles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Al-Undoubtedly Filipinos have made fredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability planning, business start-up and con-

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



## Santo Niño ...

from p. 15

turned to Cebu. During World War II when the Japanese occupied the Philippines, Father McHugh and Father Moran hid the Santo Niño in the hills.

Initially, the Feast of the Santo Niño was celebrated in April but later the celebration was moved to the third Sunday of January, with the largest celebration held in Cebu. Thousands of folks, including Maui residents, congregate in Cebu during that time.

"In January 2012, I joined a pilgrimage organized by Fr. Efren Tomas of Christ the King Church. Our pilgrimage's itinerary included visits to Manila, Bohol, Palawan and Cebu," recalls Lucy Peros. "Our pilgrimage was timed so we could join the Sinulog Festival in Cebu in mid-January. When Fr. Efren was recruiting us for the pilgrimage, he told us about the excitement of the Festival and a little about the religious and cultural significance. I was inspired to do my own research and learned how the Santo Niño came to the Philippines."

Madelyne Pascua was part of the same pilgrimage. "The day of the Sinulog, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of January is an experience I will never forget," Pascua says. "The streets were filled with millions of spectators to watch the parade. The parade was endless with groups from all over the different cities and provinces to partake in this long-time event which started in 1980. The parade ended at



Peros is pictured with a Santo Niño at St. Catherine Church in Cebu. PHOTO COURTESY PEROS

groups competed with a ten-minute dance presentation. Beautiful elaborate costumes from Barong, Terno, Maria uplifting mass I ever attended at the Clara, and native costumes. Their performances were accompanied by the sounds of live music."

Peros recalls walking along the parade route. "For about two hours, we walked along the parade route, while the parade was going on. We did not want to get lost so we held on to each other and placed our hands on each groups stopped to perform, we also stopped to watch the performance. I've never seen a parade like that before."

Like other tourists and residents, the pilgrimage visited the Basilica Minore Agustin). "The original Santo Niño is housed there. I tried taking a photo but throughout the movie, in the end the



On Maui, you can purchase a Santo Niño from Nida Salaguinto at JMA. PHOTO ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

the Cebu City Sports Center where I was too far and the photo came out dark," says Peros.

> Pascua says they attended "the most Santo Niño Basilica. Devotees sang and waved their hands to the song Bato-Balani sa Gugma (Magnet of Love), while raising their own replicas of the image of the Santo Niño. Although, I didn't understand the language it was sung in, I felt the presence of Santo Niño, Jesus and God."

Having a replica image of the Santo other's shoulders. When the parade Niño is part of Filipino culture, especially for Catholics. Even Jokoy, who grew up with a Santo Niño in his living room, made the Santo Niño play a significant role in his movie "Easter Sunday," released in 2022. Although the del Santo Niño (Church of San Santo Niño was part of an ongoing joke questioning "What is that thing?"

Santo Niño helped to protect and save Jokoy's family from the evil forces.

For Peros, seeing the original Santo Niño was a blessing. "This was more than a chicken skin moment because this was part of the beginning of Christianity in the Philippines. I felt so privileged to be there. I was in awe to be one of the thousands of people to be there. Even though we were packed like sardines, none of us were bothered by it." 💥

Alfredo G. Evangelista was baptized at Holy Family Catholic Church in Pu'unēnē on October 26, 1958 because there was no Aglipayan Church on Maui until the following year. When the Rev. Timoteo P. Quintero of the Philippine Independent Church began having monthly services in September 1959 at the Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal), Evangelista and his family began attending the Episcopal church which was in communion with the Philippine Independent Church. When Evangelista came home to Maui in 2010 after living on Oʻahu for 27 years, his Mom Catalina gifted him with a Santo Niño.



