



Miss Hawai'i USA
Savannah Gankiewicz is crowned.
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Consul General to Visit Maui
The Philippine Consul General has specific objectives.
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Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

February 2023 • Vol 7 No2 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside



February is a ‘month of many things,’ explains the Editor of Fil-Am Voice.
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‘With God, life is forever,’ says Dcn. Constantino.
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To Darlene Cachola, it’s all about ‘Pamilya.’
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Consul General Emil T. Fernandez to Visit Maui

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | PHOTOS COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

On March 5, Consul General Emil T. Fernandez will make his first visit to Maui. In the morning, he will participate in the 2023 Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. In the evening, beginning at 6 p.m., Binhi at Ani will host a reception in his honor at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

Fernandez was appointed Consul General in Honolulu on September 17, 2021 by then Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin. Fernandez arrived in Honolulu on November 18, 2021 but due to the pandemic has not been able to travel to the neighbor islands. “Immediately upon



Consul General Emil T. Fernandez

my arrival, the primary concern was COVID. Filipino Americans in the state were particularly hit hard, as many worked in the front lines

(healthcare, tourism and services industries, etc.) and many were hesitant to be vaccinated,” Fernandez explains. “We entered into partnerships with organizations such as Filcom CARES to address the significant impact of the pandemic. Appropriate measures were likewise put in place in the Consulate to minimize its possible spread.”

Fernandez is a career diplomat and entered the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1998 as a Foreign Service Officer. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila Univer-

sity with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management Economics. He also completed post-graduate courses in Commercial and Trade Diplomacy, International Relations, and International Trade Law and Policy. Fernandez is married to the former Cristina Pardo de Leon and has a son David who recently graduated with a Master of Science in Business Analytics at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

“As Philippine Consul General in Honolulu, I serve as the Philippine Government’s representative in the state as well as to the U.S. territory of American Samoa,” states Fernandez. **see CONGEN next page**

Savannah Gankiewicz:

A Filipina’s Journey as the newly crowned Miss Hawai’i USA

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR
PHOTOS COURTESY BRICE KURIHARA

“I am very excited for this journey and I hope to make my Filipino community proud as I represent Hawai’i,” says Savannah Gankiewicz, the newly crowned Miss Hawai’i USA. “I am thrilled to be Filipina American and represent my community. I definitely believe representation matters and I hope to inspire other women who look like me to not be afraid to put yourself out there. America is a melting pot of ethnicities and that’s the beauty of it.”

Savannah is the daughter of Yvienne and Gerrit Peter-

son of Maui and Mark and Kim Gankiewicz of Stephenson, Virginia. Savannah was raised on Maui from birth to the age of six and then back and forth from Maui to Virginia. She attended Sherando High School in Virginia and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. According to her Mom Yvienne Tagorda Peterson, Savannah returned home to Maui when she turned twenty-one and has been on Maui for the last six years. Savannah is currently an international model, marketing coordinator with The

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FREE

Consul General	Dates Served
Modesto Farolan.....	December 1946 to December 1948
Aureliano Quitoriano.....	January to December 1949
Manuel Alzate	December 1949 to April 1952
Pedro Ramirez.....	April 1952 to June 1953
Emilio Bejasa	July 1953 to August 1957
Juan Dionisio.....	September 1957 to January 1962
Alejandro Yango	January 1962 to June 1966
Trinidad Alconcel.....	July 1966 to September 1972
Vicente Romero.....	December 1972 to December 1975
Trinidad Alconcel.....	January 1976 to May 1984
Raul Ch. Rabe.....	June 1984 to April 1986
Tomas Gomez III	April 1986 to December 1989
Solita M. Aguirre.....	February 1992 to November 1996
Minerva Jean Falcon.....	December 1996 to November 2000
Rolando Gregorio	December 2000 to December 2005
Ariel Y. Abadilla	December 2005 to June 2009
Leoncio R. Cardenas, Jr.	July 2009 to November 2011
Julius D. Torres	December 2011 to April 2014
Gina A. Jamoralin	July 2014 to January 2018
Joselito A. Jimeno	February 2018 to October 2021
Emilio T. Fernandez	November 2021 to present



Consul General Emil Fernandez stands with USINDOPACOM Commander Admiral John Aquilino.

ConGen ...

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nandez. “An assignment to the U.S. always involves much consular work due to the size of the Filipino and Filipino-American community, which according to the latest estimates stands at 4.2 million. Following California, Hawai‘i is the U.S. state which has the largest Filipino population at approximately 350,000.”

Prior to his appointment to Hawai‘i, Fernandez served as Deputy Consul General in Frankfurt, Germany. His other foreign assignments included Washington, D.C. (2010–2016), Santiago, Chile (2005–2008) and Caracas, Venezuela (2002–2005).

In Manila, Fernandez held several important positions, including Executive Director of the Office of Asian & Pacific Affairs (2016–2018), Director for Southern Europe of the Office of European Affairs (2009–2010), Spe-

cial Assistant to the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations (2008–2009) and Acting Director of the Office of ASEAN Affairs (1999–2001).

According to Fernandez, the “main consular services provided by the Philippine Consulate are the issuance of passports and visas, legalization of documents, processing dual citizenship applications, and registration of civil acts such as births, marriages and deaths.”

The Philippine Consulate General was inaugurated on December 30, 1946 in downtown Honolulu (Kukui Street). It moved to its present location (2433 Pali Highway) in 1948. There have been twenty-one appointments as Consul General. (See adjoining box at top-left.) Except for the time period between January 1990 and January 1992—after Consul General Tomas Gomez III and before Consul General Solita M. Aguirre—there has been a Consul General appointed.

see CONGEN p.9



Consul General Emil Fernandez converses with Gov. Josh Green.

February is Heart Month

A world without hunger. A future without disease. At Bayer, these are the cornerstones of the future we envision – and what we continue to work towards. And, we know we’re not alone.

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A Listing of Miss Hawai'i USA

... According to Wikipedia

Year	Name	Hometown
2023	Savannah Gankiewicz	Wailea
2022	Kiana Yamat	Honolulu
2021	Allison Chu	Honolulu
2020	Samantha Neyland	Honolulu
2019	Lacie Choy	Honolulu
2018	Julianne Chu	Honolulu
2017	Julie Kuo	Honolulu
2016	Chelsea Hardin	Honolulu
2015	Emma Wo	Honolulu
2014	Moani Hara	Mānoa
2013	Brianna Acosta	Waialua
2012	Brandie Cazimero	Hawaii Kai
2011	Angela Byrd	Honolulu
2010	Renee Mokihana Nobriga	Pūpūkea
2009	Aureana Tseu	Mililani
2008	Jonelle Layfield	Kāne'ohe
2007	Chanel Wise	Honolulu
2006	Radasha Ho'ohuli	Nānākuli
2005	Jennifer Fairbank	Honolulu
2004	Justine Michioka	Kapa'a
2003	Alicia Michioka	Kapa'a
2002	Juliet Lighter	Honolulu
2001	Christy Leonard	Lahaina
2000	Michelle Kaplan	Kona
1999	Trini-Ann Kaopuiki	Honolulu
1998	Tiffini Hercules	Kailua
1997	Brook Lee	Pearl City
1996	Ku'ualoha Taylor	Hilo
1995	Lynn Vesnefski	Honolulu
1994	Nadine Tanega	Honolulu
1993	Kelly Hu	Honolulu
1992	Heather Hays	Honolulu
1991	Kym Lehua Digmon	Honolulu
1990	Leimomi Bacalso	Ewa Beach
1989	Julie Larson	Honolulu
1988	Paula Prevost	Honolulu
1987	Deborah Laslo	Hale'iwa
1986	Toni Costa	Kailua
1985	Tina Machado	Waipahu
1984	Puna Stillman	Honolulu
1983	Zoe Roach	Waipahu
1982	Vanessa DuBois	Honolulu
1981	Teri Ann Linn	Honolulu
1980	Carol Ching	Kāne'ohe
1979	Blanche Leialoha Ma'a	Kāne'ohe
1978	Judi Andersen	Honolulu
1977	Cely De Castro	Honolulu
1976	Brenda Texeira	Hilo
1975	Lois Mililani Wise	Honolulu
1974	Joan Ottesmeyer	Kāne'ohe
1973	Camille Deubel	Kāne'ohe
1972	Tanye Denise Wilson	Honolulu
1971	Deborah Gibson	Honolulu
1970	Donna Hartley	Honolulu
1969	Stephanie Quintana	Honolulu
1968	Carol Seymour	Wai'anae
1967	Nancy Victoria Banks	Honolulu
1966	Judith Wolski	Honolulu
1965	Elithe Aguiar	Kapa'a
1964	Wanda Byrd	(None listed)
1963	Susan Molina	Honolulu
1962	Macel Wilson	Honolulu
1960	Gordean Lee	(None listed)
1959	Patricia Visser	Honolulu
1958	Geri Hoo	Honolulu
1957	Ramona Tong	Honolulu
1953	Aileen Lauwae Stone	Honolulu
1952	Elza Edsman	Honolulu

The Crown ... from p. 1

Agency Maui and an entrepreneur building a business internationally.

Filipinos love pageants and love to root for their favorite contestant. Filipinos point with pride how many Filipinos have won international beauty contests. And mostly every town in the Philippines has their own queen. Here in Hawai'i, many of the traditional Filipino organizations also have their own queen.

"I decided to enter pageants because I wanted to be a better public speaker and have a platform where I can use my voice and spread my message to other young women on cultivating self-love. My Mom was always into pageants as she was Mrs. Maui back in the day and a director for the Miss Maui Filipina so pageantry was always in my life and my Mom really inspired me to join Miss Hawai'i USA," explains Savannah, who entered as Miss Wailea.

"We helped her by being her support system," Yvienne states. "As a former pageant director for the Miss Maui Filipina pageant who was able to bring home three consecutive state crowns during my term, the experience I applied was just making sure Savannah was prepared and calm throughout the experience."

Preparing for any pageant takes a lot of hard work. Candidates undergo preparation in a variety of ways: physically and mentally. "Preparing for Miss Hawai'i USA was a job in itself," explains Savannah. "I focused and

put everything I had into training physically but mentally as well. I was constantly reading up on current events and things that are happening not only in my country but all over the world. I had mock interviews one to two times a week and I was always studying."

Having an experienced pageant Mom was a super plus. "Even before she won the title, I was so proud of her," Yvienne says with a beaming smile. "Her hard work she put into studying current events, interviewing others on their perspective on social issues, and making sure she was able to articulate her thoughts within a timely manner was more a concern for her than what she portrayed on the exterior." This was Savannah's first time as a contestant in the Miss Hawai'i USA pageant. In 2017, she was crowned Miss Mutya ng Pilipinas Overseas Filipino Communities.

The contestants were judged on several categories: interview, swimsuit, evening gown and an on stage question. Savannah's on stage question was the most controversial question asked: "What are your thoughts regarding the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe vs. Wade." Yvienne says "At this point, we don't know exactly how that was answered, we just know the crowd roared in a loud applause...thank goodness!"

Savannah recalls how calm she felt until she looked at her family. "When I rewatch the crowning moment at that time I remember how calm I was

see THE CROWN next page



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GUIDELINES
GOLD PLUS
HEART FAILURE



2022
GET WITH THE
GUIDELINES
GOLD PLUS
STROKE

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February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. Having a strong heart is critical to your overall wellbeing. This month we're challenging you to *take care of your heart* with these tips below:

- Diet:** Eat more fresh, whole foods.
- Exercise:** Get moving for at least 25 minutes.
- Sleep:** Set a regular bed time and limit caffeine.
- Stress:** Take breaks and get outside.

Making small lifestyle changes can lead to big benefits. Learn more heart health tips at mauihealth.org/hearthealth.

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Maui Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy
Kula Hospital and Clinic
Lāna'i Community Hospital



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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Views from UpCountry Kula is one of many for me and my wife. Our favorite thing to do on Valentine's Day is to go for a long walk and just enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

PHOTO: VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

Aloha February ... Valentine's Day celebrations and many more.

Can you believe it? Christmas and the New Year have come and gone! Now comes the month of February. We are already in the second month of the Year and it seems we are in the fast lane with so much to do and even more to look forward to. I just love the month of February, don't you? There are so many reasons making this month special. Here are some of them:

- National Fun Food Days
- Groundhog's Day ... February 2nd
- President's Day
- Black History Month
- American Heart Month
- Random Acts of Kindness Day

And, of course, February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day—flowers, candy, special treats

—and depending on where you are, wintry and incredibly cold weather! Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of love and romance.

How will you be celebrating Valentine's Day this year? For many, it is spending time with a loved one on a hike to your favorite spot on the island. For some, it is having a quiet dinner at your special restaurant, and of course, for many it is about giving flowers and chocolates. For me and my wife, our favorite thing to do on Valentine's Day is to go for a long walk and just enjoy the beauty of God's creation. We then end the day with a simple dinner at home, followed by watching our favorite TV show on the Food Channel!

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That moment Savannah Gankiewicz was crowned Miss Hawai'i USA.

The Crown ...

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during the final night. I knew whatever happens God intended for that to be. So when I heard my name I knew in my heart Miss Hawai'i USA was meant for me. I was trying so hard to hold back my tears because the minute I looked at my family the tears came falling down. I am a very emotional person and I had tears of joy and I was so proud of myself."

Savannah, who was also declared Miss Photogenic, says "I think the most difficult part of the pageant were the days leading up to the events. Miss Hawai'i USA was right around the corner and I was so excited to start pageant week."

Often times movies (and insider stories) depict beauty pageants as being very competitive but the reality is the sisterhood trumps the competitive juices. "I enjoyed making friends during my pageant experience," declares Savannah. "I made a lot of connections and now I have a sisterhood. It is funny because there is only one winner and you would think it is super competitive but for me I made amazing friendships and I knew whoever would win we all would be so happy and supportive. That is why I love pageants. It's all about women empowerment to me."

According to a list appearing in Wikipedia, it's been a very long time since the Miss Hawai'i USA identifies her hometown as being from Maui. [See box on page 3] Although the 2022 Miss Hawai'i USA Kiana Yamat graduated from Lahainaluna High School, her hometown is listed as Honolulu. In 2001, Christy Leonard whose hometown is listed as Lahaina won the title. In 1999, Trini-Ann

Kaopuiki won the title, with a hometown listed as Honolulu but she is a St. Anthony School alum. This year's first runner up, Kawena Kan-Hai, is also from Maui.

And there have been a number of Filipinas who were crowned Miss Hawai'i USA, including Yamat, Aureana Tseu (2009), Nadine Tanega (1994) and Zoe Ann Roach (1983). Interestingly, the first Miss Hawai'i USA was Elza Edsman in 1952 (competing as the representative of the Territory of Hawai'i) and she placed 1st runner up at the 1952 Miss Universe. Those who won the Miss USA from Hawai'i include Macel Wilson (1962), Tanya Denise Wilson (1972), Judi Andersen (1978) and Brook Lee (1997), who went on to win the Miss Universe 1997 title.

And yes, the current Miss Universe is R'Bonney Gabriel, a Filipina from Texas who was the Miss USA. Of note, there have been four Miss Universes from the Philippines: Gloria Diaz (1969), Margie Moran-Florendo (1973), Pia Wurtzbach (2015) and Catriona Gray (2018).

The Miss USA pageant is expected to be held sometime in the fall in Reno, Nevada. "Miss USA is months away but I want to start prepping ASAP and really put in the work to be Miss USA," says Savannah. "It is my dream job and I know with my platform I can help many women."

Savannah details her goals as the new Miss Hawai'i USA: "My goals for my reign as Miss Hawai'i USA is to really utilize my platform and help the betterment of my community. I am an ambassador and program director for What Makes You Feel Beautiful, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization I work with. I believe in our mission statement to help

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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Back in the day ...

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

One of my classmates started a Facebook page for our Maui High School class (sometime last century if you want to know). It's kinda nice to see some vaguely familiar faces—greyer, less hair for the men, more lines. And especially those who moved away after graduation but now tracked down online.

The contents reflect our age.

Marriage anniversaries. Retirements (already!) Funerals of parents, spouses and classmates. Grandchildren (or even Great grands).

Never thought we would be the *kūpuna*.

When I drive past Mahi Pono's orchard plantings along Kuihelani Highway, the solid stretches of swaying sugar cane stalks are increasingly faded memories—perhaps Craig Tanaka will post a photo from his dad's collection of HC&S fields some time to remind us. The last mill at Pu'unēnē is just a shell but at least it still exists—the homes where classmates from Pu'unēnē School are now just cover crops and vegetables of some kind.

It's a challenge to explain to younger people how much change has happened during our lifetime. Back in my day, you had only Maui High Sabers, Baldwin High Bears, St. Anthony Trojans and Lahainaluna Lunas playing football and the other major prep sports.

Some of my Saber classmates still lived in the small camp homes built by the plantations for their workers. Now we have a Maui campus of Kamehameha Schools (Warriors) and

King Kekaulike High School (Na Ali'i) upcountry, along with Seabury Hall (Spartans), Hāna High (Dragons), and Maui Prep Academy (Pueo) fielding athletic teams in two separate divisions! And old camp houses, freshly painted and slightly renovated, go for half a million dollars.

The Lāna'i Pinelads and Molokai Farmers joined in for basketball season. This year Kamehameha Maui is the top MIL seed in the boys basketball tournament while Seabury Hall represents the league in the Division II bracket. On the girls side, Lahainaluna won the consolation title (5th place) with Maui High winning its opening game before facing the eventual champion 'Iolani Raiders. Molokai and Lāna'i went to State in Division II for the MIL.

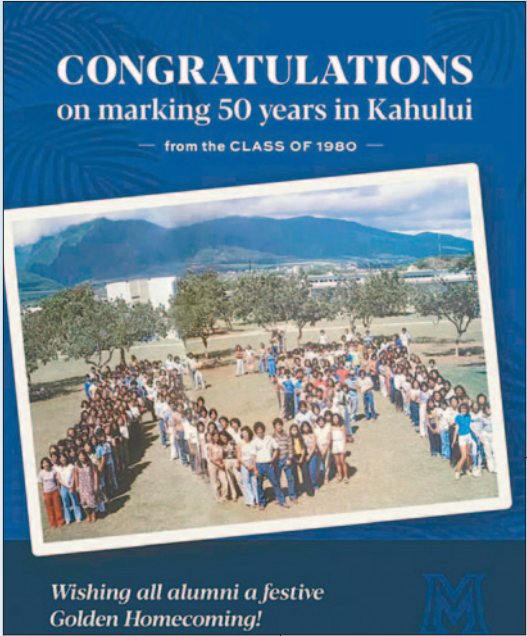
In our time, the Maui County Fair and parade happened each Fall, and the Jaycee Carnival in the summer. You had an actual fairground and racetrack where you now have car lots and warehouses off Pu'unēnē Avenue. The Maui Fair has not been held since the pandemic started.

Back in our day, my high school classmates included children of doctors, lawyers, business executives and lunas—Hawaiians, Japanese, Filipinos, locals and haoles—in the same classroom. My Pā'ia Yankees little league team featured a Plantation manager's kid at shortstop and an irrigator's son in centerfield. An early Native Hawaiian Activist assisted by an undercover vice cop coached my high school varsity basketball team.



The kid known as Gilbert Agaran back in high school.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



In 2022, Maui High School marked its 50th year in Kahului. This greeting came from the class of 1980. IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Bill Acain, administrator of Maui High School's class of 1980 Facebook page welcomes Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran to the 60th Birthday club in September 2022.



During summers, my high school friends and I worked at the Maui Pineapple Cannery where you could make some good money (and one of the high school English teachers was a luna). There are warehouses now where the Cannery once stood, and fewer kids have after school or even summer jobs. The remaining pineapple plantation is limited to some fields in Hāli'imaile and has changed ownership three times since Maui Pineapple announced it would close. My wife and I now rent a storage unit on the renovated and re-fitted Maui Cannery property.

Plate lunches come from that time—heavy, starchy meals for people working long days in the fields. Lucky you guys no need work pick pine or cut cane anymore. For me and my Filipino classmates, our *Sakada* forefathers, given their druthers, did not want their own children to follow them into the sugar and pineapple fields or the mills, although some did so and earned fairly good livings.

see D&P p. 7



Back in 'the' day, The Kahului Shopping Center was front and center of commerce in Kahului. The Maui County Fair—as it was called—happened at the fairgrounds which stood in a swath of land nearby.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



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Edrich Rabanes



Norman Montehermosa



Alvin Montehermosa

When STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers are mentioned, most students will picture an astronaut, construction worker or maybe Bill Nye the Science Guy. Although all those answers are a part of STEM, it does not capture the full spectrum of STEM careers. STEM careers are projected to grow by eleven percent within the next decade (U.S. Department of Labor Blog). Teachers and schools recognize this statistic as various STEM-related clubs are established. With the additional effort teachers and schools bring forth, do these extra-curricular clubs and opportunities help expand students' understanding of STEM and interest in STEM careers?

One example is Maui High Robotics Club: Blue Thunder Team 2443. Mr. Imada and Mr. Nakamura have mentored incoming and returning club members for fourteen years and have built "an active community unified by the goal to develop STEM and leader-

Google® Is Not Everything ... Students Heightened Interest in STEM Careers

Jazmyne Faith Vloria | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

ship skills," described **Jhanessty Bautista**, Maui High Robotics team documenter.

As Team 2443 enters their First Robotics Competition build season (eight weeks for students to design, build and program a 125-pound robot to compete against international First Robotics Competition teams), students

obtain hands-on experience in STEM skills such as design, carpentry, welding and coding. "Last year, my programming partner [Carlo Cortez, 2022 programming captain] taught me java [programming language]. It was hard to understand at first but by practicing java on a tangible object, my partner and I were able to code our robot's intake system and its sensors successfully," reflected Maui High School junior **Edrich Rabanes**.

Extra-curricular STEM clubs allow real-world application in STEM skills and classroom lessons. **Norman Montehermoso**, a Maui High School junior, reveals, "When designing the robot's arm, I had to apply various geometry and trigonometry theorems and formulas to find the correct angle placement." A deeper understanding and value are established as students are prompted to apply various classroom lessons toward real-world challenges instead of worksheet problems. Former designer [2022 designer] **Alvin Montehermoso** initially wanted to study astronomy. "After joining robotics club in middle school and continuing with it until high school, I started to enjoy engineering, design and robotics. Now I am working to pursue a career in me-


chanical engineering."

As schools create various opportunities in STEM, students are encouraged to discover and explore STEM careers, skills, and opportunities at an early age, thus furthering students to develop their own understanding of STEM and distinguish their interest in it. "Robotics was my vessel for deepening my understanding of STEM, specifically the multitude of opportunities and skills intertwined with STEM," concludes Edrich Rabanes. ✨


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 Vloria, 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 Vloria.




Happy Valentine's Day



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D&P ...

from p. 5

But as the plantations went out of production, the options in service industries offered less opportunities for middle class rising. The Visitor Industry took on greater and greater importance. Construction provided jobs, when you were off the bench, as more hotel rooms were added. And the new immigrants took those jobs just as the *Sakadas* and their contemporaries had provided labor on the plantations in the generations prior.

Back in our days, we were the first to assume flying from one island to another was a fairly normal way to travel. Hawaiian and Aloha used to have interisland flights every thirty minutes, and at one time there were two or three smaller airlines. When I commuted from my home on Maui to my job working for Governor Ben Cayetano on O’ahu, I could buy a monthly pass, get on a morning flight to Honolulu and then hop on any flight to OGG with an open seat whenever I could get to HNL that evening. Now Hawaiian Airlines (Aloha is long gone) flies to Asia and the East Coast (make sure you make your connections because things happen), and Southwest Airlines is the other interisland carrier.

Back in our day, Kahului had one



PHOTO ABOVE: Keith-Agaran's classmate Mark Lopes in front of the tounahauler on HC&S' final sugarcane load in 2016.

PHOTO RIGHT: Kallie Keith-Agaran and Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran share the initial slice of the traditional *lechon* following the Legislature's opening-day ceremonies at the State Capitol.

PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

of the first “shopping centers”—a complex where you could shop for groceries, purchase clothing and hardware, and maybe get a meal at Shirley’s or the drugstore soda fountain, and a haircut and shave. In fact, you could get your *guri guri* with or without beans. You had three markets—Noda, Ah Fook’s and A&B—and two drug stores—Toda’s and Craft’s. Today it’s just an open lot with a Burger King at one end and some office buildings and a scattering of restaurants on the old shopping center site. I admit that since

the pandemic lifted somewhat, I hardly walk through either the Maui Mall or Ka’ahumanu Center unless I’m transiting to a movie or Ben Franklin.

Young people, understandably, roll their eyes at all that “history.” That’s normal. I remember only half listening to my Papa Lino or my father muttering about the “old days.” I hate to think we’ve fallen short in some way to help our own children and great-grandchildren appreciate the changes more.

It’s part of the cycle I suppose.

Life happens. We got married. Many had children and then grandchildren. We went away to school or stayed here. A number returned to the islands to work; others made their lives elsewhere (some with the notion of moving back to the rock someday).

All of a sudden we find ourselves getting congratulated on Facebook over the last year for joining the “Sixties Club.”

In truth, choices got made in the past that in hindsight didn’t work out fully as envisioned. Dream City allowed plantation laborers to own homes outside of the sugar worker camps—a long-term project with existing island residents as the market. As tourism grew and jets democratized travel so

people could visit more regularly, vacation and second homes in Hawai’i gradually became a thing, too. Condominiums. Timeshares. And developers, including many of the plantation agribusinesses looking for added revenues as their crop profits flattened, built for that market rather than for local residents or their workforce or the children of that workforce.

But there are still signs of the rural life that once defined Maui. You sometimes see some cattle lounging near the fence line that separates the Shan Tsutsui regional park from private property. Some time ago, I saw a wild pig burst out from the bushes near Maui High School baseball field and take off down the sidewalk along Papa Avenue. And occasional brush fires from the homeless campers or careless fireworks users dust nearby communities with black snow.

You can’t help but feel some nostalgia for some of the simpler parts of growing up on Maui back in our day. ☀

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran grew up in Pā’ia and Kahului while Pioneer Mill, Pu’unēnē Mill and Pā’ia Mill still operated. He represents Central Maui in the Hawai’i State Senate.



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

As February is known as the love month, it is always a good reminder of what love is. The Holy Bible has an excellent description of love. In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12:4-8 are these words: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It does not dishonor others. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. Always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.* And 1 Corinthians 16:14 reminds us *And do everything with love.* Let us extend love to all and with one another according to God’s Holy Word and we will experience the joy and grace of being a part of God’s family.

Of note, February is the only month of the year to have only 28 days, with the 29th only occurring every four years, known as Leap Year. If you are lucky enough to have been born on a leap year, you are called a “leaper” or “leapling.” AND if you are lucky enough to be born during leap year, you can only celebrate your birthday every four years! February is also the only month that can go without a full moon.

Finally, did you know the name February comes from the Latin word *februum* which means purification and was named after a purification ritual, which for the Romans was like an early spring

cleaning festival, what for many of us is called spring cleaning? Such are some long lasting effects of our ancient history.

Presidents’ Day is the only holiday in February, celebrated on the third Monday, giving employees another day off from work. Many plan in advance to enjoy a mini-vacation during the shortest month of the year.

Black History Month began in the USA in 1970, resulting from a proposal from students at Kent State University in February 1969. Not until 1976 was it given national status when then President Gerald Ford included it during the US Bicentennial year. In a related story published through *Wikipedia*, perhaps the words said on February 18, 2016, by a 106-year old Washington D.C. resident and school volunteer who visited the White House as part of Black History Month says it best. When asked by President Barack Obama why she was there, she said: *A Black president. A Black wife. And I’m here to celebrate Black history. That’s what I’m here for.*

We wish our readers many blessings and celebrations in February. Let’s make every celebration memorable and heartwarming!

Vince Bagoyo
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Maui legislators posed during Gov. Josh Green's State of the State Address. PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Community... In Action



"Tinikling," is one of the many dances, among food, entertainment, games, displays and "bahay kubo" contests that happen at the Annual Barrio Fiesta.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



This year's Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is sold out!

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is now open for rentals.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



Team MEO fulfilled a very special need in our seniors community. Prepping meals and feeding our kŭpuna allows us to give back in a very special way.

PHOTO COURTESY BINHI AT ANI



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 \$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 alcohol will be provided, 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.

Annual Barrio Fiesta

The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27. If you are interested in being a food vendor or business vendor, contact Chairperson Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at (808) 276-8861.

Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Binhi at Ani 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament scheduled for Sunday, March 5, 2023 at The Dunes at Maui Lani is SOLD OUT! The Shotgun Start will begin at 7 a.m., with check in by 6:30 a.m. (breakfast bento will be provided). Purchase your mulligans (\$5 each, maximum of four per player) and your Jack Pot entry

(\$20). Prizes for each golfer plus Team Prizes and door prizes, including a special drawing for airfare to the Philippines courtesy of Philippine Airlines. If you paid by February 15, you are also eligible for an early bird drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei. Plus each par three will have a hole-in-one prize courtesy of Jim Falk's Valley Isle Motors. And cash prizes for closest to the pin or on the green/off the green on certain par three holes. And yes, food on the course, including hot dogs at the 17th hole courtesy of the Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company. Fun, fellowship and golf to support Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program.

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 January 31, a total of 12,762 meals were delivered. In January, the teams who prepared the food were Binhi at Ani Board of Directors, Maui Filipino Community Council, Miss Maui USA, Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i and UHMC Katak Club. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.



Create a Team by signing up:

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

<https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8>. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

Consul General Emil T. Fernandez Reception

Binhi at Ani will host a Welcome Reception for Consul General Emil T. Fernandez on Sunday, March 5 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The FREE event will begin at 6 p.m., with the Dinner Program to begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. As space is limited, RSVP's must be received by February 28. Contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or Alfredo G. Evangelista at (808) 242-8100 or email the RSVP form to AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com.



Enhance@Fitness for Kŭpuna 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 Kieck (808) 280-6251 or gkieck@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

Scholarship Program

The deadline for Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program is March 1. The Applicant must be a resident of the island of Maui, and scheduled to graduate in 2023 from a high school on Maui with a cumulative high school grade point average (through the 1st semester of 2022) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. The independent scholarship judges' decision will be based on the Applicant's grade point average (30 percent); the Applicant's activities, awards, honors, and employment (30 percent); a short essay (30 percent); and two letters of recommendation (10 percent). All decisions by the Scholarship Judges



PHOTO BELOW: Enhance@Fitness for Kŭpuna at Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center classes are held.

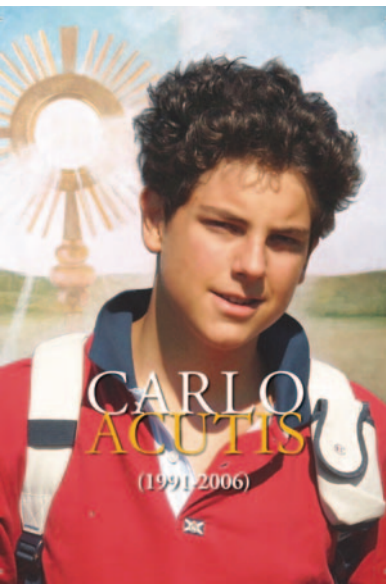
PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



20-plus scholarships will be given out through Binhi at Ani's Scholarship program

PHOTO COURTESY KELSEY HEROLD

IMAGE BELOW: Maui will host the PNA Western Region Conference. IMAGE COURTESY PNAHMI



Eucharistic Miracles of the World will be hosted by Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, March 12-19. IMAGE COURTESY MARIA LANAKILA FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB

are final. Based on preliminary estimates from the golf tournament and Scholarship Partners, Binhi at Ani expects to award at least twenty scholarship, with four at the \$2,000 amount and sixteen at the \$1,000 amount. If you have any questions or need an application, contact the Chairperson of the Scholarship committee, Michelle Balala Siores at (808) 268-8915 or email to michelle_balala@live.com. The application and supporting documentation must be postmarked or received by March 1.

MARIA LANAKILA FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB

The Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club is preparing for the March 12-19 exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World at Maria Lanakila Church's St. Marianne Hall. Admission is free.

MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

The Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs is preparing for the Maui Stewardship Day on March 4, 2023 at St. Anthony Church. The half-day event begins with Mass at 8 a.m. presided by Bishop Larry Silva. Lunch is provided but registration is

required.

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) 264-0871 for more information.

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF MAUI, HAWAII

Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawaii will be hosting the 21st PNA 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 PNAHMI President Angelina Saiki at angel.saiki@aol.com or PNAHMI Executive Director Lucy Christine Porte at lucy.christin@hotmail.com. ✳

62nd Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant June 2, 2023



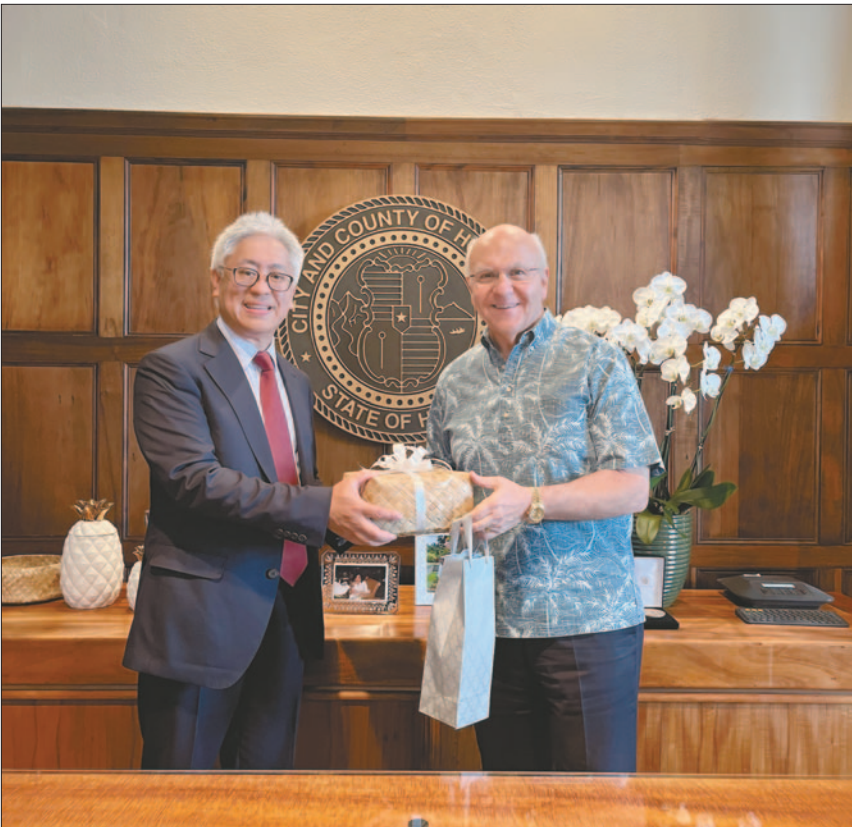
Consul General Emil Fernandez stands with sakadas during Sakada Day celebration at the Filcom Center in Waipahu, October 2022.

ConGen ... from p. 2

During that time, Pedro Chan was one of the acting officers in charge. Currently, there are sixteen persons who staff the Consulate, four of whom are officers including Fernandez. "In addition to the consular functions they perform, the officers have secondary responsibilities," clarifies Fernandez. "Consul Grace Bulos also serves as Political Officer and Planning Officer. Vice Consul Jomar Sadie also serves as Economic Officer while Vice Consul Leizel Caasi also serves as Assistance-to-Nationals Officer and Cultural Officer, among their other duties." When Fernandez arrived in Honolulu, he did the introductory courtesy calls and meetings with city and state officials, USINDOPACOM commanders, members of the Consular Corps, Filipino American community leaders on O'ahu, business chamber representatives, heads of leading think tanks and the academe, etc. In October 2022, Fernandez co-led the Trade Mission to the Philippines

of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, where several investment opportunities were explored. Fernandez notes the Philippines can benefit from greater commercial ties with Hawaiian businessmen. "Last month we organized at the Consulate an economic briefing to apprise leading local corporations with the positive developments happening in the Philippines, as well as a "Trabaho, Negosyo at Kabuhayan" seminar to present opportunities in the bustling Ilocos region. These activities were conducted with partners such as the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Los Angeles and leading telecommunications firm, PLDT." Instead of seeing challenges, Fernandez prefers to define "areas where improvements can be made as opportunities. Another area where the Philippines can benefit from is greater U.S. assistance in the modernization of the country's Armed Forces and enhancing the capacities of its military personnel, as well as learning and sharing experiences in non-traditional fields such as human-

see CONGEN p.14



Consul General Emil Fernandez exchanges gifts with Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Celebrating Life of my grandson Wesley “Keola” Kaiali’ili’i.



Doctors at Queens Hospital who work together to make this miracle to make him well so he can come this our family!



Our family Grandma Cora, Grandpa Pat, Mom Jamie with Keola at Queens Hospital as he gets stronger.

With God, life is forever.

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY JAMIE KAIALI’ILI’I

My Grandson Wesley “Keola” Kaiali’ili’i wanted so much to come home to be with his family, after staying at Queen’s Hospital in Honolulu for four months. *Gone but will never be forgotten!* Death is not the end! Death is a transformation and continuation of this Life to Eternal Life with God in Heaven! My Homily based on Matthew 5:1-12a is reflected in the Life of our Grandson Keola.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

I think about the power of silence when I read our Bible passage for today. Let’s set this teaching in context first. In Matthew 4, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness where he was tested by the devil. When He emerged from the wilderness, He called his first disciples to join Him, and He began His public ministry. Matthew 4:23 reads, “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

Keep those words in mind: “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” Soon, Jesus had a large crowd following him. Can you blame

them? I’d follow a guy who can heal diseases and cast out demons! That’s a great way to become the most popular man in town.

And what were Jesus’ disciples doing all this time? If they were smart, they would be selling autographed photos and other Jesus-themed merchandise. Turn it into a profitable enterprise. Just kidding, of course. But surely, they were getting excited at the success of Jesus’ ministry. So it must have seemed strange that, as we read in Matthew 5, Jesus walked away from the huge crowds and retreated to a mountainside. Why interrupt a good thing? Wasn’t this the perfect time to draw the crowd in with a few more miracles? But Jesus knew before He went any further, He needed His disciples to catch His vision for His ministry God had called them to.

So, He took them away from all the noise of the crowds. Note this teaching is only for His followers. He



Our Celebration of Life Mass at St Joseph Church for our grandson Keola with Fr. Michael Tolentino celebrant con-celebrated by Fr. Anton, Mgr. Watanabe, Fr. Jojo, Fr. Gus and assisted by Deacon Pat and Deacon Cornelio. Altar servers Halia Garcia and Kalya Tavares, Keola’s cousins. May Keola Rest in Peace! Amen!

needs to ensure that their purpose is not lost in their newly won popularity. He needs them to understand His miracles and teaching are not an end in themselves. He did not come to bring peace, power or prosperity. He wanted them to see the true blessings of life were not found in the comforts of this world.

Those huge crowds of people came to see Jesus because they had a need.



They were hurting. They needed healing.

They needed to be set free from their demons. They needed to know God is real. That God sees them and loves them. Can you relate to those needs? I can. They followed Jesus because they had a burden, a heart-break, a need only He could fill. It’s when you’ve lost the comforts, the security, the false blessings of this world that you feel the need of God. In fact, those who put their hope in the comforts of this world may miss the greatest blessing God intends for them, knowing God and God’s steadfast love for them.

It doesn’t matter how comfortable your current circumstances in life are if you don’t have the joy of knowing there is a God, and that God loves you. That is a source of hope that can sustain you through any challenges. Blessed are those who don’t put their hope in the comforts of this world.

The second thing Jesus teaches us is “You’re blessed if you live in two worlds.” The number one priority of Jesus’ earthly ministry was teaching about and living out the value of the kingdom of God. Jesus kicked off his ministry by preaching about the kingdom of God. And after His death and resurrection, when He appeared again to His followers, He spent forty days speaking to them about, guess what? That’s right, the kingdom of God. His miracles and healings were signs of the restoration God promises in God’s future kingdom.

Why does Matthew 4:23 say Jesus preached “the good news of the Kingdom?” Jesus explains in these verses of Matthew 5. The kingdom is good news because it means the suffering and poverty and injustice and unequal-

PHOTO LEFT: Keola well and coming home.

ity and grief of this world are temporary. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, Rev. 21:4. God will fill the hungry with good things, Luke 1:53. God will restore what’s broken and make all things new.

But for now, we live in the tension between those two worlds, the world of suffering and poverty and pain, and the kingdom of healing and restoration and joy.

In Jesus, we know God understands our hurts and our sacrifices. We cannot put our hope in the comforts of this world. But God has promised us a kingdom in which every tear will be wiped away and every broken thing restored. So, we can find strength in the knowledge God walks beside us in our brokenness and find assurance God will turn our brokenness into blessedness and all things will be made new in His Kingdom.

Jesus, I trust in You! Amen! ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** 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 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.





Whoa! Second month of the year already? That was quick. Ah February, the love month! Are you ready for Valentine’s Day? Get those poems out and be ready with it. *Roses are red, violets are blue, my life is happy because I have you.* Aaahhh, so sweet. How about this? *Roses are red, violets are blue, I’m in love with you, Don’t you have a clue? Roses are red, violets are blue, I’ll never love someone the way I love you.* Wow, I think I’m getting good at this.

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

I have to stop because I might get carried away. But if you need help, contact me and I might be able to help you. Whatever your plans to celebrate, don’t forget to get a flower or bouquet of flowers for your Valentine. It will

surely brighten up her day or even bring a smile to her face. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Shout out to our February birthday celebrants: Leilani Maglaya Corpuz, Renie Garo Menor, Yuki Lei Sugimura,

Zina Andrade-Nefalar and Esmeralda “Esmie” Damo. 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 see what’s going on with our story this month and where Michael and Angel will be going next, shall we?

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.

Nanang (Mom) is on the phone, he says to himself.

“Mikey! Mikey!” *Ima* (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.

“*Nanay?* (Mom?) Are you my *in-ahan* (mom)?” Michael says nervously.

“Of course, Michael! I am your *yena* (mother)!” she says furiously.

“Oh Mikey, *nasaan* (where) are you?” she says worriedly. “Are you ok? Are you hurt? Are you safe? Come to the *balay* (house).” Endless questions she wants to know the answer to.

“I am fine, *Ima* (Mom). I’m safe. Nothing to worry about.” Michael says calmly.

“Michael, you have to *umuwi* (come home) and we need to talk. I think it is not safe for you to be out and let alone this time. *Pauli* (Come home), my son,” she pleads with him.

Michael looks at Angel and he says to his mom, “I’m with Angel, *Inang* (Mom).”

“I know, son. The two of you should *pauli* (come home) so we can talk about things. They said Angel killed a cop,” Mom says shakingly.

“*Unsa* (What)?” Michael is shocked.

“*Sino* (Who) told you? How did you know that?” *Inno* (Where) did you get that news?” Michael’s turn to have endless questions for his *Nanay* (mother).

“Michael, calm down. The detectives are looking for her so it’s best to *agawid* (come home) so the two of you are safe. *Magpauli* (Come home), son, please?”

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamut	Lima	Gamat
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Where?	Nasaan?	Inno?	Diin?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawong	Goya	Mukat	Arap
Who?	Sino?	Sinno?	Kinsa?	Sin o?	Sinni?	Ninoymi?
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Unsa?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
House	Bahay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Come / Go Home	Umuwi	Agawid	Pauli	Mapauli	Malubbet	Muli Naka
Nothing	Wala	Awan	Wala	Wala	Awan	Ala

Michael is quiet for a moment then he says, “Ok *yena* (mom), we’re coming home.”

Michael gets out of the *sasakyan* (car) and takes five steps and then walks back to the *lugan* (car).

Michael is quiet. He is thinking. No, he is not thinking. His mind is blank. He doesn’t know what to think about.

He faces Angel and says nothing.

Angel asks him, “Michael, are you ok?”

“Is there something you want to tell me?” Michael asks instead.

Angel freezes. She doesn’t know *ana* (what) to say.

She takes a deep breath and says, “I think you should *agawid* (go home). I don’t want you to get in trouble. I’ll call Rosie to come and get me.”

“No, I’m not gonna let you go until you tell me about it,” Michael says angrily.

“Ok, calm down. I will tell you. *Ani* (What) do you want to know?” Angel asks calmly.

“Did you kill a cop?” he asks seriously.

Angel laughs.

“It’s not a funny question,” Michael

says.

“Michael, do you think I am capable of killing a cop? How did I kill him? I am scared of thunder, let alone fire a gun? Come on, Michael ...” says Angel.

“Don’t ‘Come on Michael’ me. Answer the question,” Michael demands.

“No, I did not,” Angel says seriously.

“Then why did my *Inahan* (mom) say you killed a cop?”

Michael looks up at Angel crying. “*Ano* (What)? Is this true?”

Angel’s tears fall from her *mukha* (face) and she says, “No. I don’t know *nanoyin* (what) she is talking about.” And she starts sobbing.

She is uttering some words but Michael can’t hear her over her sobbing.

Michael walks away from Angel.

Will Michael just leave Angel in the middle of nowhere late at night?

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 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.





Darlene Frances Constantino Cachola



Parents, Deacon Pat and Corazon Constantino's (center, right to left) golden wedding anniversary.

Darlene Frances Constantino Cachola

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DARLENE CACHOLA 'OHANA

Ministry is not a job or a Sunday routine. It is a privilege to be chosen and used by Jesus. Our featured Sakada Offspring this month, Darlene Frances Constantino Cachola is certainly chosen by Jesus to be working where she is today. Darlene Frances Constantino Cachola is a 4th generation *Sakada* offspring of Ruperto and Dionisia Cabaungan (paternal great grandparents), Francisco and Felisa Constantino (paternal grandparents) and 3rd genera-

tion *Sakada* offspring of Francisco and Catalina Bio (maternal grandparents). Darlene was born and raised on Maui. Her parents are Deacon Patrick and Corazon Constantino. Her siblings are an older brother Cary and younger sisters, Pamela Cravalho and Jamie Kaiali'i'i'i. Darlene, Pamela, and Jamie attended St. Anthony Grade School, Wailuku Elementary School, 'Īao Middle School, and are graduates of H.P. Baldwin High School, class of '81, '82, and '85, respectively. Darlene went on

to attend Maui Community College (now University of Hawai'i Maui College) and Heald Business College on O'ahu. Darlene met her husband Geronimo Cachola while living on Oahu while she worked parttime and attended Heald Business College. After graduating from Heald College, they got married on Maui in May 1988 and have lived on O'ahu since. Darlene and Gerry are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Chelsy Cadelinia (married to Joel Cadelinia) and Marisa Cachola. Both daughters are graduates of the University of Hawai'i. Chelsy has her bachelor's degree in Medical Technology and is currently employed at Kaiser Hospital and Marisa has her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is currently working at a credit union while studying to get a degree in nursing. They are also blessed with three grandchildren who are nicknamed The 3 Bears: Keira, Reina and Caleb Cadelinia.

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blessed that through her work, she was able to grow as an individual through her faith and by being able to be a witness to Jesus. Here are examples of her work in the ministry. For the Office of Clergy, she occasionally assists retired priests with paperwork, take them to appointments, and planning socials. She also assists in planning and preparing for retreats, conferences and workshops for the clergy currently serving in the diocese. For the Office of Vocations, she assists the diocesan seminarians with their needs while they are away at seminary and at home for summer assignments.

One of the ways the Vocations Office does outreach is they ask people participating in various marathons, etc. to represent the Vocations Office by wearing their *Akua* Run shirts and sharing with people about the Catholic Church and the vocations to priesthood, religious men and women, deacons, married life, single life, etc. Their largest support group participates in The Great Aloha Run. They ask those who are not participating in the marathons, etc. to support Vocations in Honolulu by pledging to pray their Vocations prayer and the rosary. Prayers are free and they appreciate everyone's support through prayers.

Darlene's maternal grandparents

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Darlene's family stands for a photo-op at Holy Rosary Church during her father's Deacon anniversary.



The family having dinner with Darlene's mom and dad at Tanaka of Tokyo in Honolulu.



Darlene and the family spending a Christmas holiday with Mama Bio.

were from Dong Dong La Bangged, Abra, a little town in the Philippines. Her maternal grandfather, Francisco Bio a.k.a. Papa, arrived in Hawai'i from the Philippines in the early 1940s while her grandmother, Catalina Bio a.k.a. Mama, stayed back in the Philippines with the six children. He stayed in Hawai'i for about a year before deciding to go back to the Philippines so he could bring his family back with him. Papa Francisco returned to Hawai'i in 1946 with Mama Catalina and their six children (they eventually had seven children). They lived in several camps—the first a tiny camp known as Ah Fong Camp and moved to Spanish A and later to Spanish B camp in Pu'unēnē.

Darlene shared her very heartwarming reflection on her grandparents, Papa Francisco Bio and Mama Catalina Bio: *As I am a third-generation offspring, I am truly grateful and blessed I have not had to experience the*

hardships and struggles that my grandparents and parents have. Their faithfulness, resourcefulness, and love for God and family allowed them to persevere. Papa worked for Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. plantation on Maui. He started working in the sugar mill and eventually went to work outside in the sugar cane field. Papa worked hard and long hours for so little money and he never complained. He was a quiet man, a simple man and he was a happy man. Here are some memories I have of my Papa: we would wait in the yard for him to come home when the HC&S truck carrying all the workers from the fields stopped outside. I remember being excited to see Papa so we could see if he had a surprise in his kau kau tin (lunch pail) for us. He loved to play Sakura a.k.a. Hanafuda. After dinner at family gatherings, Papa would bring out the Sakura cards. I remember so much laughter around the table. My favorite memory is sharing

the same birthday as Papa which also meant our family couldn't forget my birthday because we always celebrated together!

Papa and Mama Bio's faith gave them hope and they were able to see it manifest into a promising future for their family. Mama Catalina also worked hard to help provide for their family. She was a housewife but became very resourceful when she had to help supplement the family income. She was resourceful and worked hard preparing and selling cancanen (Filipino desserts), longanisa (Filipino sausage), and roast chicken to name a few, and going out to the neighborhood to sell. Her children (my mom, aunts, and uncles) each had jobs to do in the

mornings before school and after school to help Mama prepare the food which was to be sold. I remember helping her and being so proud of her when she learned how to read English. Mama encouraged me and the other grandchildren to study and work hard, to always love and take care of our families.

I am blessed I can share my faith, love and family values that were passed on from my great grandparents to my parents, which was passed on to me, and today I share with my daughters and grandchildren, and our extended families. I encourage my daughters to stay humble, dream big and work hard towards their goals, and love their families. I am proud of the women that my

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



Mama and Papa's 50th Wedding Anniversary.






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Consul General Emil Fernandez shares a photo-op with Filipino fishermen at the Honolulu pier.

ConGen ...

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itarian assistance and disaster response, cyber security, etc.”

“Binhi at Ani is pleased to lead the community reception for Consul General Emil Fernandez,” said Melen Agcolicol, president of Binhi at Ani. “The free event is open to the public and will begin at 6 p.m. We will have food, entertainment and a presentation by Consul General Fernandez. If you are interested in attending this free event, please RSVP to me at (808) 205-7981 or melencopy@gmail.com or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100 or AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com.”

Consul General Fernandez’s presentation will include information about the Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour previously known as the Ambassadors,

Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour. The VIP tour will be from July 16 to 24 with fun-filled activities slated in Manila, Iloilo and Boracay.

Although Fernandez’ tenure in Hawai’i will be relatively short—he must return to the Philippines on August 17, 2024 due to the maximum six year foreign tour-of-duty requirement—he has set four important goals: “Among my goals during my tenure in Hawai’i are the (1) improvement in provision of consular services, (2) greater engagement with USIN-DOPACOM to further strengthen US-Philippines defense cooperation, (3) increase two-way trade and investments between the Philippines and the State of Hawai’i, and (4) heighten cultural links and people-to-people ties.”

As Consul General, Fernandez understands the need for community outreach and to meet members of the

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Sakada Offspring | Cont’d from p.13



Darlene and Gerry with Grandma Felisa.



PHOTO BELOW: First cousins from the Bio’ohana gather for a photo.



daughters, Chelsy and Marisa are today and the values they are passing on to their children, my grandchildren.

Sharing and listening to stories of how my great grandparents migrated from the Philippines to Hawai’i, their humble beginnings, how they worked hard to provide for the family, how they kept their faith and hoped for a better future for our family is how we honor our Papa and Mama. Forever grateful and thankful, Papa Francisco and Mama Catalina! ✨

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 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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The Cabacungan 'ohana at a family gathering takes the opportunity for a photograph at Lelo's home.

Side or Passive Income on Maui

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Living on Maui is wonderful. Being surrounded by beautiful nature and people with Aloha is something many dream of. There is, however, a price to pay. Living on Maui is also expensive. This is why many of the residents have two jobs ... and yes, some even have more than two!

Some can get two actual employments. For example, a person working in a government office who starts work early and is done with work by 3 p.m., works another job on a third shift with another company. The second job can be in a retail store, as a cashier, sales assistant, stocker, etc. or at a resort as a waiter, server, bar tender, cook or dishwasher.

For many, the second job is actually more of what our culture today calls the “side hustle” or “passive income.”

Are you living on Maui right now and you need another source of income to make ends meet? Let’s talk about side hustles and passive income here at Kwento-Kwentuhan.

Let us start by defining and differentiating these two terms. To put it simply, with side hustles you “earn” money, with passive income you “make” money. This is because with side hustles, you are trading your time and involvement in return for payment, whereas for passive income, you are making money not tied to your active participation.

Now, let’s talk about some examples of side hustles and passive incomes we can do here on Maui. These are just a few ideas. After considering these, you can still think of others to fit your needs and lifestyle. The possibilities are endless! It is about cultivating and practicing creativity and ingenuity. It is about using your skills and talents upfront and setting up a system using available tools, to gain a steady extra income stream.

Side Hustle

A side hustle is any additional income from another job outside of your full-time employment. Side hustles are considered as “active income” because you are actively involved—you have to be present in order to make your money. Side hustles, however, do offer more freedom than part-time jobs because you can

set your own schedule. You call the shots and work when you want and make as much as you want.

EXAMPLES OF SIDE HUSTLES ARE:

1. Condo Cleaning / House Cleaning.
2. Dog Sitting and/or Dog Walking.
3. Driving Uber or Lyft.
4. Selling homemade goods and/or Arts and Crafts at Swap Meet and Farmers Market.
5. Babysitting for Family, Neighbors, or at a Resort.

Passive Income

Unlike side hustles, passive income is money made from an enterprise in which a person is not actively involved. While many passive income efforts involve upfront investments and set-up time, your involvement greatly decreases over time until you are completely hands-off or can hand over responsibilities to someone else. Passive income is a great way not only to help make your ends meet but also to pay debt and build wealth because you make money with almost zero limits.

EXAMPLES OF PASSIVE INCOME ARE:

1. Rent Your Car on Turo.
2. Rent A Room in Your House or Condo (make sure you have the right zoning & permit).
3. Online Income from being a Social Media Influencer, Blogger, Youtuber, Podcaster.
4. Sell Products online via Etsy or your own website.
5. Write a book and self-publish via Amazon KDP or IngramSpark.

I hope this column sparked some ideas to help you in your desire to bring in additional income in your household. Are you interested in exploring and learning more about the side hustle and passive income examples mentioned above? Please let us know by filling out the form on our websiste: <https://filamvoice-maui.com/contact/> 🌟

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

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Dog-walking is one option of having a “side hustle” that could bring extra income into your household. Marketing your side hustle can be simple using online tools like “Canva.” The goal is, retaining the money you make, and so do-it-yourself or “DIY” options offer a low-cost alternative to hiring a graphics professional.

IMAGE COURTESY CANVA.COM



My own personal “passive income” project falls into that category—and for me, it is a passion, so it’s not like “working” or doing something that I dislike to get income. In so doing, I was able to author the book, Maui Now and Beyond. My second book is coming out soon.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

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.



(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 Idica.

Evangelista recalls his first visit to the Philippine Consulate General in August 1976 when Consul General Trinidad Alconcel hosted a despedida party for the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir prior to their West Coast trip.



ConGen ...

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Filipino community. “Unlike in Germany or my previous assignments in South America (Venezuela and Chile), Filipino community events in Hawai’i abound, which also presents a fantastic opportunity for the Consul General to meet with them, hear their amazing stories, and engage with them as part-

ners in uplifting their status and contributing to the further development of the Philippines.”

The Fil-Am Voice welcomes Consul General Emil Fernandez to Maui and encourages Maui’s Filipino community to meet and talk story with him on March 5 at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center in Kahului.

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California



LEFT: 2023 Miss Hawai'i USA Savannah Gankiewicz with her Maui 'ohana.

BELOW: 2023 Miss Hawai'i USA Savannah Gankiewicz with all her family and supporters.



LEFT: 2023 Miss Hawai'i USA Savannah Gankiewicz post-pageant official photo by Brice Kurihara.

The Crown ...

from p. 4

women cultivate self-love at every age and phase of life. I plan on going into the school systems here in Hawai'i and talk to high school girls about my F.L.Y. (first love yourself) workshops I will be having this year. I am so excited to be able to help younger

women flourish and I am doing this because I wish I had this growing up." Savannah encourages others to participate in pageants. "My advice to any girl who wants to join pageantry is DO IT! Believe in yourself because that's exactly what I did. You never want to have regrets later on in life for not trying and the best part about pageantry is the personal growth that comes from it. I have grown tremendously,

my confidence in myself, speaking and the opportunities that arise from it." Savannah is so grateful to be able to represent Maui. "I am so happy that I was representing my home island of Maui. I hope I made Maui proud. I just want to say Thank You to everyone for supporting me. Joining Miss Hawai'i

USA was the best thing to happen to me and this journey I am on is one to remember." **Alfredo Evangelista's** Mom Catalina was crowned Mrs. Philippines—a popularity contest—by the United Sons and Daughters of Ilocano Regions Organization during its Rizal Day ceremonies in 1968.



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

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Maraming salamat po, UHMC!

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