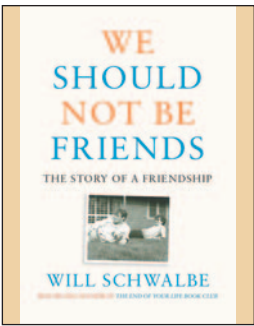


Bolo Men
 Stories of those who defended the Philippines.

See below



Writing is a passion
 Dinengdeng & Pinakbet shares the market story of 'Friends with Pens.'

See p5



The Consul General's visit
 His visit is capped with a meeting with Mayor Bissen

See Center Spread

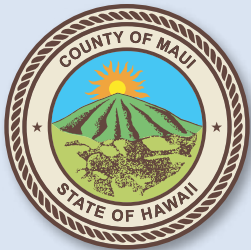


FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

March 2023 • Vol 7 No3 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside



Editor: Our County is in good hands.
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Youth strike a balance between Filipino and Western culture.
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Gifts of love, family traditions, wisdom are on display.
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Maui Economic Opportunity: A Life Changer

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR



Helping People. Changing Lives.

This phrase appears prominently on Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO)'s website. This month, MEO celebrates fifty-eight years of serving the County of Maui.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson gave his first State of the Union address as president on January 8, 1964 after he ascended to the presidency due to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Johnson focused on poverty in the United States. At that time, almost 20 percent of Americans were deemed to be in poverty.

"This administration today here and now declares uncon-



The old MEO building off of Ka'ahumanu Avenue in Kahului is shown left alongside where MEO currently resides on Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

PHOTOS COURTESY MEO

ditional war on poverty in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join me in that effort ... Poverty is a national problem, requiring improved national organization and support. But this at-

tack, to be effective, must also be organized at the State and local level. For the war against poverty will not be won here in Washington. It must be won in the field, in every private home, in every

public office, from the courthouse to the White House. Very often, a lack of jobs and money is not the cause of poverty, but the symptom. Our aim is not only to relieve

see MEO next page

BOLO MEN—Spirit of the Filipinos

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

"He was a bolo man in WW2." That single phrase in the obituary of Stanley "Islao" Magbual piqued the interest of my neighbor and former Maui News Editor Lee Imada who encouraged me to author a story about The Bolo Men of the Philippines. Imada said there was little information on the internet about The Bolo Men.

The original Bolo Men of the Philippines began during the time of the Katipunan, founded by Andres Bonifacio and others. Later, Emilio Aguinaldo was declared president of the short-lived Philippine Republic. All of this occurred during the Philippine Revolution (1896-1898), the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine-American

War (1899-1902) characterized as the Philippine Insurrection from the United States' perspective. Because rifles were scarce, Filipinos armed themselves with large bolo knives that could instantly cause decapitation.

During World War II, Filipino guerilla fighters—again due to the scarcity of munitions—armed themselves with bolo knives to fight against the Japanese Imperial forces. (Even here on Maui, The Maui News reported each member of the Maui Volunteers, Company M, 3rd Battalion (representing Hāli'imaile) was initially armed with a bolo knife made by the volunteers themselves in Maui Pineapple Co.'s blacksmith shop. Eventually all Maui Vol-

see BOLO MEN p.3



FREE



Groundbreaking of Mahalani St. circa 1997. Gladys Baisa (center) is flanked by Gov. Benjamin Cayetano and Rep. Joseph Souki.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

MEO ...

from p. 1

the symptoms of poverty but to cure it—and above all, to prevent it. No single piece of legislation, however, is going to suffice.”

In March 1964, Johnson presented his legislation titled the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and Congress approved the bill that summer. Johnson signed the bill into law on August 20, 1964. As a result of the new law, local Community Action Agencies were formed as a key component of the War on Poverty.

MEO was granted its Charter on March 22, 1965 “to serve the low-in-

come, elderly and handicapped persons” and is the only designated anti-poverty Community Action Agency serving Maui County. “MEO connects individuals and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making our community stronger with services located in the areas of greatest need. When a family or an individual faces a crisis, MEO is able to respond quickly with targeted forms of assistance appropriate to the situation. This may include the mobilization of help from our many private sector partners, volunteers, and faith-based groups,” explains Debbie Cabebe, the current Chief Executive Officer of MEO.

Six others have been in charge of



MEO's current leadership team.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

MEO prior to Cabebe: Elizabeth “Jonesie” Medeiros, Joe Souki, Paul Pladera, Gladys Baisa, Sandy Baz and Lyn McNeff.

Baisa began with MEO in 1969 as a fiscal officer. “I was called by Mayor Elmer Cravalho who told me Joe Souki was looking for his first Finance Director,” recalls Baisa. “At that time, I was working at Maui Memorial Hospital but I had a lot of respect for the Mayor so I decided I would apply for the job. We had a lot of grants coming in from the federal government and a fiscal officer was needed to keep things straight and to comply with all the grant conditions.”

Baisa became Executive Director in 1984 and served until December 2005. She served MEO for a total of thirty-eight years with twenty-one years as Executive Director. “Medeiros was on loan from the Department of Education for a year. She hired Souki who went out into the communities to organize disadvantaged and poor people by first identi-

fying their needs and making sure programs were created to meet those needs,” says Baisa. “When Souki became Executive Director, he was very creative and innovative. For example, he came up with the concept of Meals on Wheels. He even started a little van service which became the start of MEO’s bus program. He also started the Headstart program on Maui.” Souki also started the senior clubs, according to Baisa.

During her years, Baisa started the BEST (Being Empowered and Safe Together) program which is designed to assist inmates to successfully reintegrate into society. MEO was a federal Migrant & Seasonal Farmworker Program (MSWP) grantee since the 1970s. In 1990, responding to a request from the local Agricultural Industry during the ag worker crisis, which resulted from many local workers switching to work in the visitor industry, Baisa reached out to her fellow MSWP grantees in

see MEO p.8



Debbie Cabebe is the current CEO of MEO
PHOTO COURTESY MEO



EXCELLENCE
IN EMERGENCY CARE

“I was on day 3 of a much needed long overdue vacation in Maui when I had to be rushed to the hospital by ambulance in the middle of the night. Felt very well cared for and was released the next morning, but had to monitor my symptoms and return within a couple days if my problem did not correct itself. Unfortunately it didn’t. So a day and a half later my wife took me back to ER. Definitely a scary situation trying to figure out what I was dealing with. My main ER nurse was incredible! Such a hard worker and very kind to both my wife and I. I really appreciated her. What a wonderful calming personality. But then my situation got a bit scarier and I really have to thank one of the (other) ER nurses, who overheard the situation and came in to calm my nerves. She even went a step further and on her abreak, came in and spent some extra time with me when she clearly didn’t have to. It really did help my anxiety during such an uncertain situation. Thank you so much for going above and beyond despite the exhausting, incredible work you do. Overall my experience at Maui Memorial was great and I’m thankful for the professionalism and care I received.” - T. I. (Gratitude Wall)

Maui Health is committed to providing exceptional care for every person, every time. Our team of caregivers continue to receive national recognition for their dedication to quality and safety. Learn more about our commitment to excellence at mauihealth.org/excellence.

AWARD-WINNING
CARE



Maui Memorial Medical Center
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic
Maui Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy
Kula Hospital and Clinic
Lānaʻi Community Hospital



#WEAREMAUIHEALTH | mauihealth.org



MEO provides tools to help people and change lives through five departments: Business Development Center, Community Services, Early Childhood Services, Transportation Services and Youth Services.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

Bolo Men ...

from p. 1

unteers were equipped with a .30-caliber infantry rifle.)

According to his family, Magbual was seventeen years old when he “joined as a Bolo man during World War II against the Japanese. He was appointed to be a Chief Officer because the first commander was too afraid to complete the duties. As CO, he led the men and women at night to do their rounds in the mountain and their surrounding neighborhood. During the day, they guarded the *bit-ang* (rural unpaved road); collected *bit-uang* fruit and extracted the juice; then cooked the juice until it turned to oil. They used cord, or old clothing,

as a wick and used this as their light when they made their rounds in the mountain. They also learned to speak basic Nippongo (Japanese). They were called bolo men because their only weapon was a bolo knife and boomerang made of bamboo. The boomerang was so sharp, it could cut a person in half.”

After the war, Magbual moved to Manila, learned the bakery trade and joined his sister Juana Cajigal in Maui in 1979. After initially working as a carpenter, he supplemented his family income by baking. In 1983, Magbual opened Four Sisters Bakery ... and the rest is *pan de sal* and *ensaymada* history.

But the stories of the Bolo Men are quite sparse. During her interviews of *Sakadas* and their offspring, Lucy Peros can’t recall mention of the Bolo Men. A few stories exist but unfortunately, with each of their passing, the memories fade.

Jared Agtunong’s initial inquiry with his family members appeared to produce little results but he dug further by calling his uncle in the Philippines who gave Agtunong a long and beneficial lesson about his family’s history. “There are actually a total of three family members who were connected to the Bolo Men. WWII’s impact in the Philippines was a push for migration for my family and many other Ilocano people to migrate from the Ilocos Region towards the Mountain Provinces in the landlocked areas of Luzon,” says Agtunong. “My paternal great grandfather Faustino Sagisi from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte served as a Bolo Man in Atok, Flora, Apayao formerly known as Atok, Luna, Mountain Province. Prior to the Japanese occupation, he worked as a rice farmer. I learned that after the war, his spouse, my paternal great grandmother Gregoria Agngarayngay Sagisi received a pension from the United States government as compensation for his efforts during WWII.”

Agtunong also discovered his paternal uncle’s father-in-law Alejandrino Foronda from San Emilio, Ilocos Sur

served as Mayor for San Emilio after the Japanese occupation. “During the war, his primary role was to help American soldiers in understanding the geography of the region and as a scout for possible Japanese military camp sites,” states Agtunong. “My uncle also disclosed my paternal grandfather’s sister Eugenia Agtunong, who was born in Batac, Ilocos Norte, played a role during WWII. She cooked food and did the laundry for American soldiers in Flora, Apayao. She made a claim for U.S. pension benefits but due to lack of documentation, never received any benefits/compensation for her role during the war.”

“My late maternal grandfather Dionicio Ramos Tomas of Solsona, Ilocos Norte was a bolo man,” says Victoria Juan Watanabe. “I remember my late

Mom Candida Tomas Juan telling me stories of the war. She was a teenager at that time. She says my grandfather who was a *barangay* official also was a bolo man. The Japanese came to Ilocos Norte and they would behead those who would steal stuff. My grandfather would try to be a peace-maker and tell the Japanese who among the villagers were not involved in the stealing. By doing that, my grandfather was able to prevent the Japanese from beheading villagers. As a bolo man, he served as a lookout—a sentry—to warn the villagers when the Japanese would be approaching the village so they could avoid any unnecessary confrontation.”

“My paternal granduncle Temotio Ganai Ramos was a bolo man,” says Jeny Ramos Bissell. “He is the brother of my paternal grandfather Juan Ganai Ramos, the father of my Tatang Ricardo Ramos.” Bissell’s aunt Rosita Ramos Agmata, the sister of Ricardo Ramos, recounted to her the stories of the war. “A lot of decapitation, limb amputation, cutting off ears, drinking and eating their own body waste, forceful drinking of water and other liquids.” The relatives of Bissell’s husband Michael were physicians who cared for the guerilla fighters in Manila and nearby villages. Michael Bissell believes the San Fernando, La Union relatives of his *Lolo* DeGuzman (who was a Judge) were guerilla fighters.

Although Josephine Alvarez Bagao’s family did not include any bolo men, she recalls an interesting story. She was about five or six years old during WWII. “Ferdinand Marcos and about fifteen bolo men came to my grandpa Doroteo Alvarez’ house to hide from the Japanese soldiers,” she recalls. “So they hid under the house. My grandpa Doroteo was a councilman in Davila, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte and was a friend of Marcos. Early the next morning, Marcos and his bolo men group left to hide in the mountains.”


The Bolo Men existed throughout the Philippines. In the province of

see BOLO MEN next page




Stanley “Islao” Magbual
April 28, 1924 – January 31, 2023


The Magbual Family, Four Sisters Bakery



THE RECIPE FOR OUR BUSINESS: CPB.

THE RECIPE FOR OUR BREAD: WE'RE NOT TELLING.

 The Four Sisters Bakery on Maui has been in business for 16 years. Their bank from day one has been CPB. It all started when Mr. Magbual's daughters (thus the name of the bakery) urged him to open a shop to sell the Pan De Sal bread he once made in the Philippines. So off he went to CPB. There, he got the start-up financing he needed, a Business Checking Account, and eventually, a Commercial Mortgage to purchase the land under the bakery. Today, you'll not only find the sisters working, but brothers Arnold and Jay who now head up the business. As for Mr. Magbual, he is very philosophical about his successful relationship with CPB. His advice: "When you find the right recipe, you stick with it." For business help, call one of our 27 branches statewide, or Business Banking at 544-0500.

 Central Pacific Bank

www.cpb.com Member FDIC

In the early 1990s, Central Pacific Bank ran ads focusing on the success story of the Magbual family and Four Sisters Bakery.
PHOTO COURTESY MAGBUAL 'OHANA

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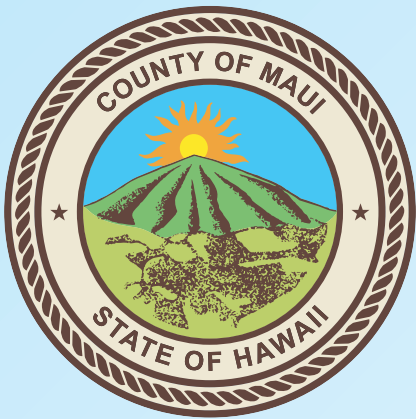
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 Science for a better life



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Maui's Future in Good Hands

Now the Maui County Council is organized, there are many reasons to be hopeful and optimistic about a bright future for our County. In addition to the Council Chair, each of the Councilmembers serve as Chair of one of the eight committees. Every Committee has specific responsibilities, or *kuleana*, of which urgency of action is dictated by challenges facing the County. We appreciate the work of all the Committees and designated Chairs, all deserving our gratitude, encouragement, support and aloha.

It is our hope that new leadership will bring different perspectives for addressing the many pressing problems and issues we face today—lack of affordable housing for hard working residents, homelessness, high cost of living and domestic abuse, to name a few. Here it is, four months after the General Election, and the Council is hard at work to chart a better path to resolving our numerous challenges.

What better way to begin their new term than the unanimous selection again of Alice Lee for

Council Chair by her peers, a testament to her ability to lead a very diverse group of fellow Councilmembers, from progressive, to moderate to far-left persuasions. Chair Lee has the experience and skill to navigate a balanced approach to legislating policies benefitting our County's residents. She is a seasoned Councilmember who is highly respected by her colleagues because of her willingness to listen to all points of view.

Another reason for our optimism is the appointments of the Committee Chairs, and especially the key committees to address our most urgent challenges at this time. Council Vice-Chair, Yuki Lei Sugimura, chairs the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee, focusing on the annual budget after receiving Mayor Bissen's proposed 2024 fiscal year budget. With her extensive experience in both the private and public sector, she is an excellent choice to steer us on the path of fiscal responsibility placing a high priority on the needs of our County's working residents. Councilmember Sugimura's business

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One of the statues of the Filipino Veterans of WWII Monument depicts a sentry.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Bolo Men ...

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Lanao Del Norte, Bolo Men were known to be fierce defenders of their province and region. Sharon Zalsos Banaag found a pamphlet titled "The Resistance Movement in Lanao: 1942-1945" authored by Evelyn Mallillin-Jamboy which includes a description of how a certain Mr. Zalsos vowed to eat the liver of any captured Japanese soldier. Zalsos Banaag notes Mr. Zalsos was a distant relative.

Zalsos Banaag heard stories from her grandfather. "According to my Lolo Felipe Abonales Zalsos, World War II was an excruciatingly painful time," explains Zalsos Banaag. "He was in the Philippine Army at the time. The Japanese captured his regiment. Coincidentally, at the same time, my husband's mom and her sisters were visiting Mindanao. The three Almerida sisters who were born in Pā'ia, Maui went to Mindanao to visit relatives but got stuck during the War. Accounts from both my Lolo and mother-in-law painted a horrifying time in the history of Mindanao. Women were brutally raped and killed. Their grandma cloaked the sisters and put them in hiding for months, so no Japanese soldiers found them. News spread fast on the unspeakable atrocities committed by the invading soldiers on women, infants and children and made laborers of the surviving men. It was especially hard on my Lolo to be in captivity. He would tell me in Visayan 'the gruesome Japanese invasion broke my spirit.' During this time, my Lolo and his fellow soldiers underwent rigorous training by the Japanese forces. Select captured soldiers were

taught to read and write in Kanji."

Arnel Alvarez' paternal grandmother's brother Pedro Unite Alonzo was a guerrilla fighter and was captured by the Japanese. "They tortured him by hitting him with the bottom of a rifle and pouring water in his mouth while he was lying down," says Alvarez. "He survived the Bataan Death March by jumping into the side of the hill."

Bobbie Sensano, the youngest daughter of Magbual, recounts how her Dad said "the Japanese were notorious and had no mercy. My Dad said if you got caught doing something against the Japanese, they will behead you in front of your family members. And if they caught a glimpse of any of the family members turn their head away in fear, they'll be next, although my Dad was fortunate not to witness this. This info was passed down from my Dad's general."

My wife Basilia's paternal grandfather Macario Idica was a guerilla fighter from Sinait, Ilocos Sur. The family lore includes the story how her paternal great grandfather Daniel Idica was beheaded by Japanese soldiers in front of Macario. "I remember Grandma Isca reminiscing about great grandpa Daniel knowing how to speak Latin," says her sister Eugenia Idica Sitts. "He had his Latin books but the Japanese soldiers burnt them. Grandpa Macario said our great grandpa Daniel, who was a *barangay* leader, was beheaded by the Japanese soldiers because he kept talking in Latin."

Over the years, I understood my Dad, Elias Acang Evangelista, of Paoay (Barrio Sungadan), Ilocos Norte was a guerilla fighter. But I never knew details until recently

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Fil-Am Voice

LOCATION

24 Central Avenue
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i
USA 96793

CONTACT

Tel: (808) 242-8100
Email:
info@filamvoicemaui.com

INTERNET

Web:
www.filamvoicemaui.com
Facebook:
facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui

Publisher

The Fil-Am Voice, Inc.
Tante Urban, President
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Editor

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Assistant Editor

Alfredo G. Evangelista
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Art Director

Lawrence Pascua
graphics@filamvoicemaui.com

Ad Executives

Sharon Zalsos Banaag
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Alfredo G. Evangelista
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Contributing Writers

Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
Sharon Zalsos Banaag
Dulce Karen Butay
Patrick Constantino
Alfredo G. Evangelista
Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Lawrence Pascua
Lucy Peros
Liza Pierce
Tante Urban
Jazmyne Faith Viloria

Distribution

Dulce Karen Butay
Nora Cabanilla-Takushi
Alfredo G. Evangelista

Web Master

Nick Ponte

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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Friends with Pens

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Over the years I made it a point to pick up or at least leaf through, books authored by college classmates—some I knew but mostly only passing recollection of a name. For example, I ran into the provocative Naomi Wolf (*The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women*; *Vagina: A New Biography*) a few times as an undergraduate but I wouldn't say I knew the Lowell High graduate very well (she could be called an early prototype of today's influencers).

With two South Carolinians as roommates, I had common acquaintances with W. Hampton Sides, a prolific popular historian. His books cover an eclectic period of eras and topics including *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West*, *On Desperate Ground: The Epic Story of Chosin Reservoir—the Greatest Battle of the Korean War*, *Hellhound on His Trail* and *Ghost Soldiers*. But the one I particularly enjoyed was *Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier*—a mix of travelogue and profiles of modern American just off the edge of mainstream culture throughout the country, from Pentecostals to anarchistic and freewheeling skateboarders, to the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show.

I skimmed Nicholas Christakas' *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society* in the midst of the Halloween controversy when he headed Silliman College, and Eric Metaxas' *Letter to the American Church* before he went full-evangelical MAGA apologist for TFG.

The latest, highly recommended by other classmates, is a memoir of an unlikely friendship by Will Schwalbe, *We Should Not Be Friends*. I pre-ordered a copy and it arrived a week ago. It sucked me in from the start:

"By the time I was a junior in college, I'd already met everyone I cared to know. I was friends with most of the other gays and lesbians: this wasn't difficult because, in the early 1980s, not many of us were out of the closet ...I knew the theater people ... I knew many of the people who styled themselves as writers ... I also knew those I didn't want to know. The jocks. And they didn't seem to want to know me. In the dining halls, they filled boisterous tables. They wolfed down epic platters of scrambled eggs. They wore baseball caps backwards and moved in packs."


Schwalbe chronicles an unlikely friendship with college wrestler Chris Maxey—people called him "Maxey"—over the course of the forty-odd years since graduation. It was a distant time. Schwalbe, Maxey and their classmates arrived in New Haven only a dozen years removed from women being admitted to the school in the late-1960s. Ivy League schools were still tradition laden places—probably still are in many ways.

Will and Maxey's relationship was forced in part by one of those Yale institutions—the senior or secret society (Schwalbe never names the one he joined but it wasn't Skull & Bones since Will's group included women). Over the decades, with Schwalbe pursuing a career in book and digital publishing and Maxey moving from the SEALs to teaching and then starting a school in the Bahamas, the book captures much of the social changes that have rushed through our lives.

The school song suggests, "Bright College years, with pleasure rife,/The shortest, gladdest years of life;/How swiftly are ye gliding by!/Oh, why doth time so quickly fly?/The seasons come, the seasons go,/The earth is green or white with snow,/But time and change shall naught avail/To

WE SHOULD NOT BE FRIENDS

THE STORY OF A FRIENDSHIP



WILL SCHWALBE

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *THE END OF YOUR LIFE BOOK CLUB*

The latest, highly recommended by other classmates, is a memoir of an unlikely friendship by Will Schwalbe, *We Should Not Be Friends*.

IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

break the friendships formed at Yale." For those of us who came of age in the mid-1980s, we did not have the tools that allow today's students the ease to maintain close bonds after graduation. Email was something new and geared towards the academics. We had no cellphones, let alone today's "smart" phones. If we wanted to contact college friends, we called on regular landline telephones (time zones allowing) or wrote real letters (relying on the U.S. post office to deliver our notes within a reasonable time and hoping the address we had for classmates was still current). The book is honest and reveals Will's regrets and doubts we all experience in our changing and developing relationships and friendships, yet gradually

comes to an epiphany about living now. As he describes his thoughts after an evening with his friends and their adult children: "... maybe the sense of peace I was feeling in that moment was my head making room for the present, without the past and the future pressing so hard. No need to regret our history—I shared too much with these people to dwell on that. No room for the future—the two youngsters would take care of that for us. Just the present."

Even beyond an actual memoir, of course, many of my classmates have written what they know.

A novel by a classmate that I re-read every couple of years is Julie Ot-suka's *When the Emperor Was Di-*
see D&P p. 7



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Direct: 808.276.6919
realestateinthe808@gmail.com



Gina Duncan
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MauiGina@gmail.com

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Differing social norms, beauty standards, trends and foods. Today's Filipino youth are being pulled in numerous directions to formulate their balance of Filipino and Western culture. What elements, daily routines or traditions helped form today's youth's interpretation of Filipino culture?

"Some of the biggest things that have helped me wrap my head around Filipino culture would include food, daily prayers, superstition and the language and dialects themselves too," realized **Carlo Cortez**. Although Carlo is now continuing his studies in Washington, he continues to connect with his Filipino culture by "learning how to cook certain dishes and spending more time with cousins and families and going along with the social norms they established." Instilling Filipino culture throughout childhood has significantly resonated with Carlo even through college. "As I grew up, I was exposed to many cultural aspects, and in the way, each one tends to be carried out, I understood more about the nature of the culture as well. That alone has helped me envelop my perception and interpretation of Filipino culture."

"My interpretation of Filipino Culture had been formed by chores that had us using brooms and dustpans, the variety of flavors displayed in different food dishes, traditions of having a debut and dancing *Tinikling*, and most importantly, the people that surround me," **Jhanessty Bautista** reveals. With Maui's large Filipino community, numerous Filipino traditions, stories and social norms are strung



Carlo Cortez



Jhanessty Bautista



Roxelle Magliba

Google® Is Not Everything ... Our Interpretation of Filipino Culture

Jazmyne Faith Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

through everyday life. "Whenever I see my parents or extended families, the children, including myself, greet them

and *mano*. This traditional practice forms my interpretation of Filipino culture as having great values of respect for our elders and community," **Roxelle Magliba** expresses. Slight implementations of Filipino culture in everyday routines motivated Jhanessty and Roxelle to connect with their cultures and encourage others to do so.

"I noticed that our school is mainly composed of Filipinos, yet many of us don't know much about our culture. I wanted to re-start the Filipino club with hopes of spreading cultural awareness and helping Filipino communities." Maui High's Filipino club now holds eighty members with the mission to "create a place where any student at Maui High School could learn about and participate in the Filipino culture. Each month, our club gets together to learn about a certain topic in Filipino culture or to come together for a fun celebration," Jhanessty explains.

One of Maui High's Filipino Club's monthly activities was choreographing and performing *Tinikling* at Maui High

School's Saber Family Fun Night. Roxelle, Filipino Club president, led and choreographed the performance within three weeks. "As I was teaching the steps, it was a learning experience for me. There were many trials and errors but in the end, I have gotten closer to my culture." Through student-led experiences, like choreographing and publicly performing a traditional *Tinikling* dance "has brought me from a place where I knew absolutely nothing about the culture except that I was a part of it to learning and teaching the culture to other people around me," Jhanessty emphasized.

There is no limit to how small actions or grand gestures could impact youth's interpretation of Filipino culture. Whether it be cultural stories, practicing traditions or cooking delicious meals in the kitchen, all hold a key portion in youth's journey to discovering themselves and strengthening cultural connections. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is Jazmyne Faith Vilorio, a Senior at Maui High School. She is a member of Saber-Scribes—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 re-fashions old clothes, journals, edits photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. She is the daughter of Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Vilorio.



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D&P ...

from p. 5

vine—a novel about the Japanese American experience on the West Coast in World War II. It's the first book where I knew the person's name (the Asian American Students Association was not a large group). Julie followed with *The Buddha In the Attic*, about Japanese picture brides in the early 1900s. Julie last year released *The Swimmers*, set closer to our present time, which I plan to read because at my age, the challenges of memory explored in the novel weigh on my mind.

Another of the four islanders in my class, 'Iolani graduate Ken Goldstein has a career spanning Hollywood and Disney to Silicon Valley. He penned a pair of I expect autobiographical novels exploring the industries, music and places he has lived—*This is Rage* and *From Nothing*. He also issued a management manual gleaned from his experiences at start-ups, spin-offs and legacy companies: *Endless Encores: Repeating Success Through People, Products and Profits*.

Residential college classmate Rachel Toor worked in college admissions at Duke and wrote “Admissions Confidential: An Insider's Account of the Elite College Selection Process” and *Write Your Way In: Crafting An Unforgettable College Admissions Essay*. Now a creative writing professor, her amusing and witty advice *Misunder-*



Branford College Class of 1984, Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut.
PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

stood: Why The Humble Rat May Be Your Best Pet Ever is worth picking up. A runner since undergraduate days, she also penned *Personal Record: A Love Affair with Running*. I admit I haven't read her memoir of keeping pets and dropping boyfriends *The Pig and I: Why It's So Easy to Love an Animal, and So Hard to Live with a Man*.

One of my roommates, Mark

Weinberg, is a career civil rights attorney in his Chicago hometown. Out of his crusade in support of panhandlers' first amendment rights outside Chicago sports venues, he penned *Career Misconduct: The Story of Bill Wirtz's Greed, Corruption, and the Betrayal of Blackhawks' Fans*—a book length polemic against the late billionaire hockey team owner. He gave me an autographed copy.

In the early years after graduation, I made it a point to attend reunions, showing up for the fifth, tenth, fifteenth and I think the twentieth. I've since missed the twenty-fifth, thirtieth and thirty-fifth as life, age, health and distance caught up with me.

Schwalbe, a professional writer, captures where I hope we are now mentally: “I realize that most of the things I had worried about for the last four decades lived only in my head, and that while it was almost certain that I am the bigger nutcase, Maxey was a nut, too. He'd had his own list of things he worried about. I knew that all my friends carried similar lists in their heads. Maybe that's part of the reason my friends are my friends. We care enough to spend time worrying about

the ways that our actions, including the times we neglect to act, affect one another. And, of course, we enjoy one another's company. We like the people our friends are, and the person we are when we're around them. After decades of worry, maybe it wasn't more complicated than that.”

I guess that means no more self-deprecations. No humble brags.

As Schwalbe and Maxey admit to each other, “You know, I think you know me as well as anyone knows me, Maxey. The truth is, and I mean this, there's not much to know.” “You, know, that's another thing we have in common, Schwalbs. I'm pretty shallow, too. I guess we are just two middle-aged shallow guys who are pretty frickin' lucky to be here.”

Damn, I wish I had written that. Actually, I wish I had said that. ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran attended Yale College and Berkeley Law School on the mainland. He wrote some sports for the Yale Daily News and some satirical pieces for his own indulgence during college and law school. He presently represents Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate.



From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

acumen will help guide the Council to better manage Maui County's limited financial resources—and not a “tax and spend” approach—which will also give us confidence to weather the storm of a potential recession this year.

It is refreshing to note the Housing and Land Use Committee, a very important committee to address Maui County's housing crisis, will once again be chaired by Council Presiding Officer *Pro Tempore* Tasha Kama. She is an excellent choice for this Committee focusing on expediting entitlements for affordable workforce housing projects targeting all aspects of our area's median income families. Having witnessed her tenacity during the past few years on the Council, it gives us hope and confidence she will meet the challenge of making sure workforce housing will be at the forefront of this Committee's agenda.

Two freshmen Councilmembers will be leading key committees during this Council term. Nohe U'u-Hodgins chairs the Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee, whose focus will be on the nominations of department heads, boards and commissions. U'u-Hodgins is an ideal chair because of her even-tempered and respectful nature. With

her leadership, we are hopeful and confident the vetting of appointees of the heads of departments, boards and commissions will be informational and respectful, rather than confrontational, hearings. This Committee also focuses on litigation matters having the potential of financial impact on our County.

Finally, another freshman Councilmember, Tom Cook will chair the Water and Infrastructure Committee, with the very important focus on needed infrastructure for workforce housing projects long neglected resulting in our current housing crisis. With his leadership, can-do attitude and experience as a contractor, we can hope for help in developing our infrastructure accelerating the development of affordable housing projects to benefit our working families.

Please let us all join in unity to support and encourage our new Council leadership team to meet our increasing challenges with resolve and urgency. Let's continue to make Maui Nui Nō Ka 'Ōi! ✨

Vince Bagoys

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Author Julie Otsuka stands next to me third from the left in the back row.



Carol Reimann (center) and the current MEO Board of Directors.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

MEO ...

from p. 2

mainland states and brought in hundreds of unemployed and underem-

ployed Hispanic workers who were legally in the United States, to work at Maui Pine and Del Monte. The program saved Maui's pineapple industry at that time.
"The Mission of MEO is to strength-

en the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential and enrich their lives," Cabebe states. "The goal is to promptly stabilize a family or individual, and thus avoid the long-term consequence of costly public dependency. MEO also has the capability to sustain long-term involvement in a family's progress to self-sufficiency, as well as in the development of the low-income community."

Currently, MEO provides tools to help people and change lives through five departments: Business Development Center, Community Services, Early Childhood Services, Transportation Services and Youth Services.

The Business Development Center assists small business entrepreneurs with developing a business plan, start-up and expansion education, credit assessment, and microloans.

Community Services provides a wide array of services, including employment training and job placement; acculturation and advocacy for the Hispanic/Latino community; rental, weatherization and energy assistance; senior club coordination, including ed-

ucation and advocacy, providing seniors with access to fresh fruits and vegetables; reintegration for returning citizens; and more.

Early Childhood Services provides quality early childhood education to children twelve months to five years of age, including Head Start comprehensive services to eligible children and families.

The Transportation Department provides rides to the doctor, work, school, and adult day care, and for necessary shopping and other needs with both standard and wheelchair-lift-equipped vehicles. MEO also operates The Maui Bus ADA paratransit service.

The Youth Services Department provides youth with assistance to succeed in school and life through fun-filled opportunities. They learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce and to serve the community. Prevention of underage drinking, substance abuse, tobacco use and teenage pregnancy, as well as a teenage suicide curriculum and activities, are consistently blended with youth program

see MEO p.12

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Agnes Groff and Don Medeiros at the old MEO at Vevau St. in Kahului.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

Bolo Men ...

from p. 4

when I asked my 98-year-old Mom. “Yes, he was a bolo man,” she tells me in Ilocano. “There were many of them, including your uncles Juan Espirito and Tony Acang.” (Espirito and Acang would later be on the S.S. *Maunawili* with my Dad when they came to Hawai’i in 1946 as part of the last batch of *Sakadas*.)

My Mom tells me how all the men from Paoay would hide in the mountains. From the top of the mountains, they could see the Japanese soldiers coming and would warn the villagers. One day, a single Japanese soldier came to the Sungadan barrio, looking for men. My Mom recalls telling him in Ilocano, “You’re by yourself, if you come closer, I’m going to hurt you.” Apparently, the Japanese soldier was accompanied by Ilocanos so the Japanese soldier quickly fled. My Mom chuckles when she recalls that story.

The Japanese soldiers would look for women to be comfort women, according to my Mom who remembers a lady who moved to Manila returned to Paoay only to be forced to be a comfort woman for the Japanese army. (When I get my Mom going, she is full of interesting and sometimes funny stories. She says a lady named Tomasa was at one time my Dad’s girlfriend. Tomasa’s family wanted a thousand pesos but my Dad said he didn’t have that kind of money. When

my parents got married the Tomasa family asked my Mom how much money she gave my Dad and she retorted she was not for sale!) After the war, my Mom recalls all the guerilla fighters turned in their bolo knives at the elementary school where my *Lila* Yadocia Evangelista was a teacher.

“I always knew he was a bolo man,” says Sensano of her late Dad. “I heard it growing up but I didn’t know all the details until he told me last year. I spoke to him in Filipino and I asked him a lot of questions because I was intrigued.” Sensano says her grandma was so worried about her Dad being a commander. “She begged him to step down. But my Dad was brave. He would lead a group of men to do their rounds in the mountain and jungle at night using a makeshift lantern made of old clothing or cord as a wick and oil from the *bituang* tree for light. My Dad proudly said he was ready to use his weapon if he needed to and fortunately he never got to use it. He spoke about how the Japanese would walk around during the day. He said he never got to use his skill to use the boomerang or bolo knife because the Japanese were very courteous whenever he had an encounter with them. In fact, he said the Japanese would bow to him when they saw him posting or guarding his station or *bit-ang*. My Dad in return would salute them.”

Recently, the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts unveiled the Filipino Veterans of WWII Monu-

see BOLO MEN p.9



The base of the front statue of the Filipino Veterans of WWII Monument depicts a bolo man, as contained in the Congressional Gold Medal.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



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Community... In Action



The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will feature food, business and cultural booths and the sharing of games and culture including "Tinikling." PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Consul General Emil T. Fernandez visited Maui and was hosted with a welcome dinner by Binhi at Ani. The next day Consul General Fernandez met with Mayor Bissen. PHOTOS: ALFREDO & BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is now open for rentals. PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



RIGHT: UHMC's Kabatak Club assists with the Binhi at Ani's Bayanihan Feeding Program. PHOTO COURTESY UHMC KABATAK CLUB



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.



Richard T. Bissen, Jr., and presented by Sharon Zalsos Banaag, Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Congratulations also to Mario Castro for winning the On/Off the Green contest on Hole #6, donated by Bill and Amy Ruidas, World Class Travelers; to Matthew Talavera for winning the Closest to the Pin contest on Hole #8, donated by Levi Aguinaldo; to Richard Jose for winning the On/Off the Green contest on Hole #17, donated by Jeanice Garcia Paa of Pyramid Insurance Centre, Ltd.; to Perry Yadao for winning the \$890 Jackpot on Hole #3; to Celso Vila for winning the Early Bird Prize, donated by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura; and to Jim Diegel for winning the Grand Prize—roundtrip airfare to Manila from Honolulu—sponsored by Philippine Airlines.

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 February 28, a total of 12,992 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

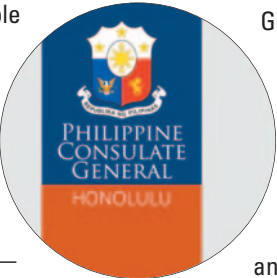


Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8>. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

Consul General Emil T. Fernandez Reception



Maui welcomed Consul General Emil T. Fernandez with a reception on March 5, followed by a meeting on March 6 at the office of Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. and a private lunch hosted by Tante Urban and Tante's Island Cuisine. *Maraming salamat po* to all the donors who contributed to the reception: Four Sisters Catering, McDonalds of Kahului, Tante's Island Cuisine, Paradise Supermart, Asian Mart and Fast Food LLC, Romeo Guzman, Darlene Edrina, Rudy & Hedy Udarbe, Nora Takushi, Domingo Gumpal, Annie Natividad and Teresita Noble of Noble Travel. Many thanks to Host Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Deacon Patrick Constantino and the entertainers: Angelina Abapo, Sharon Zalsos Banaag, Aunty Lola Balubar and her halau, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Filipino Folk Dance Troupe, Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, Dance International Production, and La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino.

Thanks to Sabado Studio Art Gallery & Boutique for their gift to the Consul on behalf of Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation. A special sense of gratitude to Philippine Airlines and Ms. Sol Solleza. And of course, Mahalo plenty to all the volunteers and to the over 350 folks in attendance.

Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes are continuing. They are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 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 Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

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. Aileen Concepcion and Melanie



Golf Tournament winners above and players at the 17th hole. PHOTOS: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center classes are held. PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS

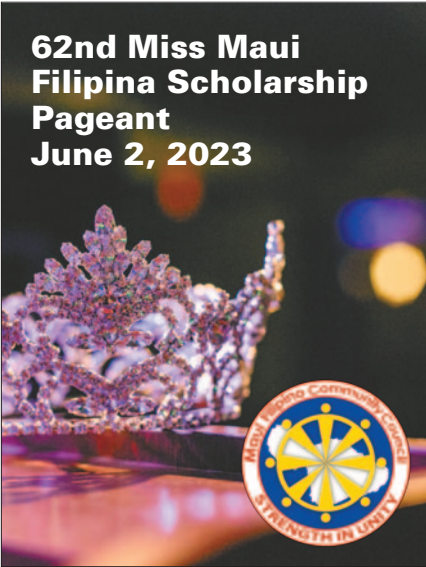


IMAGE BELOW: Maui will host the PNAA Western Region Conference in April.

IMAGE COURTESY PNAMHI



Garde, on behalf of the Council recently delivered two pans of pancit to the **striking workers of Maui Health**.

The Council will play host to the **annual convention of the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i** on Maui on July 21 through July 23 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Chairing the convention is Emi Cortez.

The Council will also host the **Miss Hawai'i Filipina Scholarship Pageant** at the Maui Beach Hotel on July 22. Chairing the pageant is Michelle Santos.

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF MAUI, HAWAII'

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. The Vice President of the Western Region Conference is Bob Gahol, telephone (808) 218-2393 or email: bgahol@hotmail.com.

There are many ways to participate and support (even if you are not a nurse or a member of PNAMHi) Full page ads in the souvenir program are still available at \$150. Tickets for the Networking Night “Hawaiian Lū'au” on April 21 2023 at Maui Beach Hotel (note the new site) are available at \$65 (Aloha attire). Tickets for the Gala “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” on April 22, 2023 at Maui Beach Hotel Moana Ballroom are available at \$75 (Colorful semi-formal attire).



If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, advertiser, or wish to attend either the lū'au or gala dinner, please contact PNAMHi President Angelina Saiki at angelsaiki@aol.com or PNAMHi Executive Director Lucy Christine Porte at lucy-christin@hotmail.com or President-elect Jeny Bissell at mauikini@icloud.com.

UHMC KABATAK CLUB

UHMC Kabatak Club was reorganized last fall with the following officers: President - Dustin Metzler, Jr.; Vice President - Karylle Cabbat; Secretary - Jene-lyn Santos; Treasurer 1 - Camille Haluber; Treasurer 2 - Diether Dadiz; Public Relations Officer - Jansen Aceret and Event Coordinator - Johanne Guevarra. They are advised by Wayne Aguiran, Aris Banaag, Chris Yanuaria, Darlene Guerrero, Junnie June and Sharon Banaag.

UHMC Kabatak Club is a cultural club promoting pride amongst Filipino students. Anyone can join: non-Filipino students, high school students and people who are enthusiastic about the Filipino culture. Students are empowered to unite through socials, community service, and personal development. Since its reorganization, UHMC Kabatak Club engaged in community volunteer projects with Binhi at Ani, Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce and Adopt a Highway.

UHMC Kabatak Club meets every other Tuesday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the UHMC Student Lounge. Join their next meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 as they share food, play games and learn more about the Filipino culture.

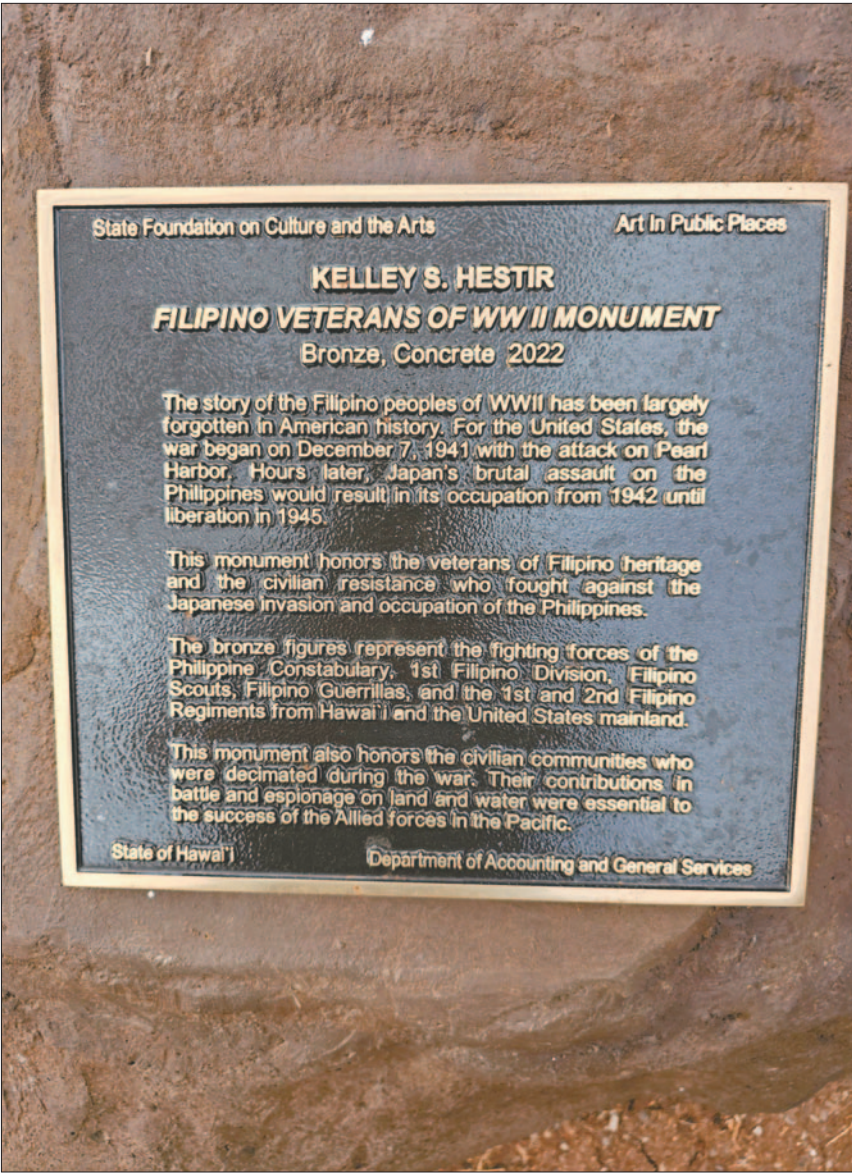


MFCC supports the striking workers at Maui Health.

PHOTO: MELANIE GARDE

Officers and advisors of UHMC Kabatak Club.

PHOTO COURTESY UHMC KABATAK CLUB



The plaque of the Filipino Veterans of WWII Monument.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Bolo Men ...

from p. 9

The monument created by Kelley S. Hestir consists of four statues and is on the grounds of the Waipahu Public Library.

Ninety-nine-year-old Art Caleda, a Bolo Man, was in attendance along with his fellow Filipino veterans Oscar Bangui and Faustino Garcia, who is 100 years old. Caleda and many other Filipinos fought alongside the Americans based on President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s promise of citizenship, later rescinded by Congress. In 1992, Caleda and thousands of other Filipino veterans descended in Hawai'i—without any place to go—to apply for U.S. citizenship. Those Filipino veterans and their families—as many have now died—continue to fight for their benefits. Congress did pass legislation authorizing a paltry sum of money and the award of a Congressional Gold Medal. But there was only one Gold Medal made and Veterans—unless they found a sponsor such as FilVetRep through Retired Major General Antonio Taguba—purchased their own set consisting of a bronze replica

of the medal, a case and a copy of the law for \$100. In 2020, however, the price increased to \$235.

The plaque of the Filipino Veterans of WWII Monument states: *The story of the Filipino peoples of WWII has been largely forgotten in American history. For the United States, the war began on December 7, 1941 with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Hours later, Japan’s brutal assault on the Philippines would result in its occupation from 1942 until liberation in 1945. This monument honors the veterans of Filipino heritage and the civilian resistance who fought against the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines. The bronze figures represent the fighting forces of the Philippine Constabulary, 1st Filipino Division, Filipino Scouts, Filipino Guerrillas, and the 1st and 2nd Filipino Regiments from Hawai'i and the United States mainland. This monument also honors the civilian communities who were decimated during the war. Their contributions in battle and espionage on land and water were essential to the success of the Allied forces in the Pacific.*

Indeed, the Filipinos’ role in World War II—and the bravery of the

On the front of the Congressional Gold Medal, a bolo man is portrayed.

IMAGE: FilVetRep





Nicanor Saladino—a success story with MEO.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO



The Youth Services Department provides youth with assistance to succeed in school and life through fun-filled opportunities.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO



Margie, Anna and Kathy advocate for the services MEO daily provides at a rally fronting Queen Ka'ahumanu Center.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO



Gladys Baisa at Hale blessing.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

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MEO ...
from p. 8

activities.

Over its fifty-eight-year existence, there are many success stories, including Nicanor Saladino who arrived from the Philippines in October 2015. While in the Philippines, Saladino received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Engineering from Mariano Marcos State University and also was an owner of two businesses. When he arrived on Maui, he started working at Monsanto but was laid off in March 2016.

Saladino sought assistance from MEO through its National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). Saladino was hired as an auto detailer at Kihei Auto Sales and MEO NFJP assisted with support services for transportation, housing/rental assistance and auto renewal registration. Saladino was also able to enroll in several computer classes at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC). Saladino soon expressed interest in Photovoltaic Electrical Technology and Water Purification and through MEO NFJP, he received certifications in the entry level Photovoltaic Design and Installation course, the OSHA General Industry course and the Certified Supply Green Supply Chain Professional course. Later, Saladino applied for MEO's Energy Educator for Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and he received a certificate of completion from Case Management Courses. Today, Saladino works with the MEO WAP and as a Rental Assistance Program (RAP) case manager.

The Rental Assistance Program is where Cynthia and Mitchell Catugal sought assistance from MEO. The Catugals' longtime rental was being terminated and the Catugals faced being homeless. Even though both of them held full-time jobs, the Catugals were in a financial bind. Through Craigslist, they found a unit allowing animals but it cost more than they could afford. MEO provided the Catugals with their rent and utility deposits, first month's rent and monitored their progress for a year as part of the Rental Assistance Program. To receive assistance, they were required to take MEO Business Development Center's Financial Literacy class. With their housing secured, they turned their attention to improving their credit scores and saving to purchase the unit. Earlier, they asked their landlord if they could purchase the unit if it ever went on the market. When it did, the landlord offered the unit to the Catugals and with help from family, they were able to close the deal. With prices rising and both in their 60's, this was the last opportunity for the Catugals to own a home.

One of the beneficiaries of the BEST program is Eddie Rodriguez who was set to be released on parole in early 2021. Rodriguez planned to return to Florida but the pandemic stopped all his travel plans. MEO stepped in and provided Rodriguez with a unit at the Ka Hale A Ke Ola shelter so he could be released on parole. MEO helped Rodriguez with his transition and helped him gather his necessities and gave him a cellphone and clothes to put on his back. MEO also assisted with Rodriguez' resume



Seniors laugh and have a wonderful time at the 2022 senior fair.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO



MEO held a swap meet at the former MEO office facing Ka'ahumanu Ave.
PHOTO COURTESY MEO

and steered him to employment possibilities. Through MEO's BEST program, the CARES Act program and the Employment program, Rodriguez was able to save money and send money to his kids and still have left over funds. He was definitely given a head start through MEO.

"I hate asking for help. I don't like being helped. Normally, I do things on my own my whole life," clarifies Rodriguez. "But I learned to be humble and just accept the help. Take it while I can. It's there for a reason. And so I did! I took the help. I met some good people with good intentions. And I am grateful for that! The help is there. The programs work. But the only way it works is if you yourself is trying. It works but you have to work with it."

"MEO has been a godsend," affirms Cynthia Catugal. "MEO has been one of the best things to happen to the County of Maui from transportation services to everything they offer, small business help, rental assistance, everything. It's just an awesome, awesome program."

"Amazing! I can't imagine my life without the great help MEO NFJP has provided for me, it seems like a dream come true!" exclaims Saladino. "My life was difficult when I came to Hawai'i and MEO NFJP opened up an opportunity for a new beginning. It equipped me with the knowledge and training for my future (career)."

Recently, MEO partnered with Hale



Mahaolu to develop affordable housing. "What MEO is doing about creating housing is really fulfilling their true Mission. MEO is more than a nonprofit; it was created through legislative action to help solve the problems of the unrepresented," asserts Baisa.

"Helping People. Changing Lives. That's the motto that drives us at MEO," concludes Cabebe. "There is no greater joy than to see people coming to us in difficult times and working to improve themselves and thrive. Living in Hawai'i, families are one job loss, illness or family emergency away from financial problems and homelessness. MEO is here in your time if need as a safety net ready to help." ❄

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 39 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica. He first met Gladys Baisa in 1986 when, at the instruction of Elmer Cravalho, he asked Baisa to head the Benjamin Cayetano Maui campaign for Lt. Governor.

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“Life and Faith”



Fr. Cipriano Leonador “Jojo” Alnas, Jr.



LEFT: Fr. Jojo at the Confirmation at Holy Rosary Church, Pā'ia
PHOTO: CYRILLA PASCUAL



RIGHT: Santa Nino family from Maui to celebrate Santa Nino feast on Lanai with Fr Jojo.
PHOTO DEACON HENRY COSTALES



Call to Serve as a Fisherman, Disciple, and Become a Priest of God!

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY FR. JOJO ALNAS

I’m proud to introduce to you Fr. Cipriano Leonador “Jojo” Alnas, Jr. who I served with as Deacon at Holy Rosary Church in Pā’ia, when he first arrived on Maui. I learned a lot from him about our Filipino culture, traditions and church history. This is Fr. Jojo’s story.

Fr. Cipriano Leonador “Jojo” Alnas, Jr. was born in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, Philippines on September 11, 1975 to the proud parents of Cipriano Edurice Alnas, Sr. (deceased) and Yay Ganno Leonador. Fr. Jojo as everyone knows him, was ordained on November 19, 2003 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. He belongs to the Diocese of Laoag. Fr. Jojo entered the Seminary from High School (Minor Seminary) up to Theology (Major Seminary) His College is also on the Seminary, Philosophy-Major Seminary. He served in the Philippines as Assistant at St. William Cathedral Parish, Laoag City, and St. Andrew Parish, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte; Pastor at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, and St. James the Greater Parish, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. He served as Dean of Seminarians at St. Mary’s Seminary, and Procurator at San Pablo Major Seminary. His encouragement to Priesthood came from an elementary teacher—Mr. Placido Dumlao who talked to him about studying at the seminary and convinced his mother to send him to the Minor Seminary for his high school life and the rest is history.

The scripture readings are a reflection of Fr. Jojo on his CALL TO SERVE AS A FISHERMAN, DISCIPLE AND BECOME A PRIEST OF GOD!

The First Disciples Called

As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee he watched two brothers,

Simon now known as Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea. They were fishermen. He said to them, “COME AFTER ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.” They immediately abandoned their nets and became his followers. He walked along farther and caught sight of two other brothers, James, Zebedee’s son, and his brother John. They too were in the boat, getting their nets in order with their father, Zebedee. He called them, and immediately they abandoned their boat and father to follow him. Matthew 4:18–24

The Call of the First Disciples

As he stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats moored by the side of the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then, remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and LOWER YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH.” Simon answered, we have been at it all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets.” Upon doing this they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them. These came, and together they filled the two boats until they nearly sank. At the sight of this, Simon Peter fell at the knees of Jesus saying, “Leave me, Lord. I am a sinful man.” For indeed, amazement at the catch they had made seized him and

all his shipmates, as well as James and John Zebedee’s sons, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will be CATCHING MEN.” With that they brought their boats to land, left everything, and BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS. Luke 5: 1–11

Fr. Jojo’s Reflection on his favorite Scriptures

Come, follow me, is an invitation to see and at the same time a journey of life’s experiences. My first encounter with these words was when I entered the minor seminary. At a young age, being curious of many things, I heeded the call—COME—which brought me to the four corners of the seminary—a place to stay, to play, to study and to pray. A



With Fr Jojo and Deacon Henry are visitors from Las Vegas
PHOTO: DEACON HENRY COSTALES

place to be with fellow young boys who aspire to have a good education and training for the future.

Only later I learned “seminary” meant seed bed. As I grew in the seminary the seed of vocation that is sown in me started to grow. Responding to the call is an opportunity to allow the seed of vocation to take its roots and grow and before I knew it, the life of priest began to unfold on me.

People started to ask me questions like, Apay kayatmo ti agpadi? (Why do you want to become a priest?) Kanayun a sungbat ko ket “Diak ammo” ket no isunto ti biagko a ket akseptarek, naragsaknak met ka daytoy a kasasaad ti biagko ita. Intultuloyko ti simmungbat ti nga agadal

iti seminaryo, ket nagtultuloy met a dimmakel ti bukel the bokasyon nga agpadi kanyak. Siak ti immuna a na ordenan a padi diay parokia ken ili-mi.

In my life as a priest, especially when assigned in the parish, I encourage others to come to church, to be one and be a part of the gathered people of God, praising and thanking our Loving and Merciful God, in the Eucharist. Moreover, I am trying my best to help in every possible way I can those who are willing to respond to the call of the priesthood. Kas pagyamanko iti kina imbag ken kina-managparabor ni Apo Jesus kanyak, sindadaannak a sumaranay kadagiti padak nga agkasapulan nangnangruna kadagiti agngaya-ngay a sumrek seminaryo ta ti kaasi ni Apo Dios makapag padi da met ket agserbi danto met a kas maysa nga apo padi.

Thank you, Fr. Jojo for your reflection. Ti Apo ket nasayaat, nga kankanayon. All the time, God is good! Apo Jesus agtalekak kenka. 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’anae. 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.





And there goes our shortest month, gone just like that. March was unusual to have a lot of rain, snow caps and more raining in Hawai'i. I am probably still soaked from the last rainfall. How did you fare this “winter” season in Hawai'i? Even though the weeds grow, even though your shoes are muddy and you can't hang your clothes out to dry at the moment, I still think it is beautiful. There is a certain serenity in rain, a soothing vibration and a calm forcing you to slow down a bit and even concentrate on

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

things you have taken for granted. The month of March in the Philippines is graduation month. From elementary to high school, and even college, all kids are wrapping up their finals and parents are planning the festivities. Here in Hawai'i, kids are just barely into their midterms in the third

quarter. Seniors are just done presenting their Senior Project. Do you have any family graduating? Can you still recite your Alma Mater? Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui and shout out your High School Alma Mater, Hawai'i or Philippines or both!

Shout out to our March birthday celebrants: Sharmaine Jolleen Butay, Glenda Soriano, Sharon Zalsos Banaag and Dustin “DJ” Metzler. 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?

“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? Common, Michael...” says Angel.

“Don't common 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.

He continues to walk. *Inno* (Where) is he going? Why is he walking away? He is not the one who did something. He closes his eyes for a moment and thinks.

“Michael!” Angel shouts. “*Nasaan* (Where) are you going?”

Michael continues walking. Angel jogs towards him. “Hey ... wait! Wait for me!” she shouts.

Michael stops.

He faces her and asks her, “Did you kill a cop? Answer me honestly,” Michael demands.

Angel is shaking and answers, “No. I did not kill a cop. I don't own any gun or weapon to kill a cop. I did not do anything.” She starts sobbing.

Michael takes her elbow and guides her back to the *kotse* (car).

“Let's go back to the *sasakyan* (car) and we need to get out of here. It's not safe, especially for you.” Michael looks around to see if anyone is there.

“*Nokarin* (Where) are we going?” Angel asks.

“I don't know. Away from here. Anywhere,” Michael says confusedly.

They walk to the *saken* (car) quietly.

Angel gets inside the *sakyanan* (car), buckles up.

“Michael, I did not kill a cop. Do you believe me? I didn't do anything!” She starts sobbing.

“Ssshhh ... Be quiet for now. Explain later. Right now, let's go to my house.” Michael tells her.

“To your *balay* (house)? Your *nanay* (mom's) house? I don't want to go to your *bahay* (house). Your *nanang* (mom) is there. I am scared of

your *inahan* (mom)!” Angel's cries flood with trembles and hiccups.

Who is not scared of other people's mom for interrogation? I know, I would be.

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

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor



of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is now part of Saladmaster's Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.



Leilani Badley



Leilani with Grandson Gilmer Thomas



Badley Family

Leilani Peros Tagorda Badley

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LEILANI BADLEY 'OHANA

The gift of love, generosity, family traditions and wisdom of her *Sakada* grandparents gave this *Sakada* offspring a perpetual gift she plans to pass to her own children and grandchildren.

Leilani Peros Tagorda Badley was born on April 30, 1964, in Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She is the daughter of the late Aurea Peros Tagorda and the late Reynante Tagorda. She is one of the many grandchildren of the late *Sakada* Silvestre Per-

os, Sr. and Herminia Torricer Peros. Leilani attended Kahului School, Kindergarten to 8th grade, St. Anthony Jr. and Sr. High School, 9th to 12th grade. She graduated from Seattle University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Information Administration and pursued a Master in Business Administration (MBA) at Western Governors University, Salt Lake City in Utah. She worked as a leader in the healthcare industry focusing on regulatory compliance, HIPAA Privacy and

health informatics for healthcare organizations in Hawai'i, Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C. and California. She worked at Maui Memorial Medical Center, Wahiawā General Hospital, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i Region, Mid-Atlantic States Region and Northern California Region, and UC Davis Health. She is currently at the California Department of Veteran's Administration in Information Technology. When Leilani was at Wahiawā General Hospital, she was chosen as the Manager of the Year.

Leilani has four children: Lauren Catherine Golebiowski (daughter) who attended Holy Names University with a BA in Music. She is currently pursuing her Master in Music Education at Liberty University. She is currently employed as an Assistant Teacher at Celebration Preschool. She is married to Jakub Golebiowski. He is employed with Freddie Mac as a Sr. Resolution Planning Financial Analyst. They have two daughters Sofia Katarzyna (9) and Emma Aurea (6).

Leilani's second child is Basil Thomas Badley (son). Basil graduated from California State University with a BS in Business. He is currently self-employed as a Real Estate Developer/Project Manager in Detroit, Michigan.

Elizabeth Marie Orellana is Leilani's younger daughter. She attained a BS

in Health Sciences at James Madison University and a Master in Pathology from Drexel University. She is currently employed at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento as a Pathologist Assistant. She is married to Gilmer Orellana. He is currently employed at California State Department of Health as an IT Specialist. They have two children: Aurea Elise (3) and Gilmer Thomas (newborn).


Theodore (Teddy) William Badley (son) is the youngest of Leilani's children. He is currently pursuing a Cybersecurity Certificate from UC Davis University.

Leilani has four siblings: The oldest is Reynold Victorio Tagorda, employed with Headquarters United States Forces in Korea as Assistant Deputy Director. He is married to Joanna Chong. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Generoso (Gene) Tagorda is her second brother. He is employed with the Department of Education as a Custodian and has a landscaping business. He has two children.

Richard and Robert Tagorda are Leilani's twin brothers. Richard is employed with the State of Washington Adult Services as a Social Worker. He is married to Lucille Banzon Tagorda. They have two daughters. Robert is employed at the Palace Hotel as a Chef. He is married to Mary Jane Mar-

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Tagorda Family



Flores de Mayo with Lilang

quez Tagorda. They have two daughters and two grandsons.

Leilani is very active in the community as well as in church ministries. She is a Board Member for NAKEM (National Alliance for Knowledge, Empowerment and Meaning). She is a member of the California St. John the Baptist Parish Finance Council. She leads the Divine Mercy Ministry as well as being a lector. She is a member of the American Health Information Management Association, California Health Information Association,

and the American Institute of Healthcare Compliance.

Leilani enjoys reading, playing mahjong, swimming, golfing, traveling and spending quality time with her children and grandchildren.

Leilani was very close to her Sakada grandparents, Silvestre Peros, Sr. and Herminia Torricer Peros. They were originally from Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. Silvestre was one of the thousands of Sakadas who came to Hawai'i to work in the sugar and pineapple plantations in 1946.



Leilani Wedding with Lilong



Leilani College Graduation with Lilang

Young and strong Silvestre welcomed the opportunity, so he signed up to come to Hawai'i even if it meant leaving his young wife, and his young children. Their children at that time were Aurea, Nenita and Greg Peros. He signed up to find a better life for his family. He left the Philippines in January 1946 aboard the *S.S. Maunawili* from Port Salomague, Cagayan, Philippines. HC&S Sugar Company sponsored him. He lived in Camp 13 when he arrived on Maui together with the other *Sakadas*. He worked as a fertilizer maintenance man and irrigation system maintenance man until his retirement in 1978. Life at Camp 13 was a lonesome one for Silvestre

because he missed his young family so much. So in July 1946, his family followed him to Maui, Hawai'i. His family was one of the very few families living in the camps at that time. Their son James was born in Hawai'i in 1947.

In 1950, Silvestre and Herminia decided the Philippines would be a better place to raise their growing family. So he took his whole family back to the Philippines then returned to Hawai'i by himself. Herminia was expecting their son, Sylvester, Jr. In fact, they thought he was going to born on the boat on their way back to the Philippines. Fortunately, they reached

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page





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Leilani and Lilong at Family Gathering

Santo Domingo just in time for his birth, on January 3, 1950. He was born on land after all!

When the Peros children matured into adolescents, Silvestre and Herminia decided once again it was best to have both parents present in raising their children. So nine years later, the whole family came back to Hawai'i except Aurea because she was already married at that time. However, she was able to come back to Hawai'i a few years later with her own family. Silvestre's family settled in Camp 4.

Their son Jesse, the youngest, was born in 1962. After Camp 4, they moved to the 6th Increment because HC&S was phasing out the plantation camps. Herminia also worked and retired from HC&S. Herminia and Silvestre, Sr. were very loving and caring parents and grandparents.

Leilani had these very heartwarming reflections on Grandpa Silvestre (Vestre) and Grandma Heminia (Herming): *Respected Patriarch and Matriarch of the Peros family. They lived a life of integrity, love, kindness,*



Flores de Mayo with Peros Women

and generosity. They were the hardest working people I will ever know. Because of this, they stressed the importance of education and encouraged and supported their children and grandchildren to pursue higher education degrees. They instilled the values of faith, family, friendship, heritage/culture, education, finance, food and fun. Lilong (grandpa) and Lilang (grandma) provided abundantly for all their children and their families. We celebrated every recognized holiday together as a family. Lilang even made up her "holidays" or reasons to celebrate by buying a whole cow or pig, just so we would come together as a family. This is what brought Lilong and Lilang the greatest joy. Our most celebrated holiday was New Year's Eve, also Lilong Silvestre's birthday because we were treated to a freshly cooked lechon (whole roast pig) in their backyard. Our Peros family continues this wonderful tradition today. Since moving away from Maui, I have also continued this tradition with oven lechon. Definitely not the same but in honor of my Lilong and Lilang's tradition. I am so blessed and grateful to my Lilong and Lilang for their hard-work, sacrifice and courage to come to America. It is because of them that I am a Filipina American citizen of the United States of America. They petitioned my mother, father, brothers Reynold and Gene and me to pursue the American Dream. I can never repay them for this generous gift and opportunity. However, I try to honor them every day by following their example of integrity, love, kindness and generosity.

I also have adopted their values of faith, family, friendship, heritage/culture, education, finance, food, and fun. Before I moved away from Maui, Lilang Herminia didn't want us to move and gave me these words of wisdom: "Lei, it is not how much money you make, it is how much money you save." Of course, Lilang was always right. I love and miss my Lilong and Lilang very much. My children reminisce about their wonderful memories playing tricks on Lilang. I keep their memory alive with their photos in my home. Agya-manak unay, (I am very grateful). *

Lucy Peros is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Saka-da) 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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Rainy Days on Maui

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog"

It's been raining on and off a few weeks here on Maui, which gave me an idea of what we can talk about in Kwento-Kwentuhan. Let's talk about rainy days on Maui!

Wait a minute, isn't Maui supposed to be sunny all year long? Not quite. On Maui, winter and spring season means there is a high probability of rain. That is why if it is your first time to come visit Maui and you want to be assured it would be sunny, come during summer. During summer, you can always find a sunny spot. Maui is made up of hundreds of micro-climates and if it's raining in one area (for example in Hāna and Ha'ikū), generally speaking one can find sunshine on another part of the island (for example, Lahaina, Kā'anapali, Kihei and Wailea). But during winter (which is the season we are in right now) sometimes it rains on all parts of the island like what happened on the second to the last week of February.

What Can We Do on Rainy Days on Maui? This is one of the common questions asked by tourists planning their visit on Maui (especially if they are coming during winter and spring). Top answer is "Go to the Maui Ocean Center." It is fun for the whole family! Another common recommendation is to restaurant hop. It's time to try a new restaurant and explore Maui's delicious cuisines. I would even dare to suggest to do takeout from foodtrucks and eat them in your house or condo. On the Westside, I heard that Merienda foodtruck is great! On the Southside, I highly recommend Vidad's foodtruck. And yes, both those foodtrucks have Filipino food 😊.

There are many more things to do but I would like to end with this suggestion: Go to Mystery Maui in Wailuku and have some fun solving mysteries with a group of friends or as a family!

The West Maui Mountains Are Turning Green! This expression often comes from local residents who see the transition of West Maui mountains from brown (during the summer) to green (during the rainy days of winter). The mountains usually turn green a few days after a heavy rain. It is a beautiful sight to see, especially when there are rainbows. Speaking of rainbows ...

Without Rain, There Are No Rainbows. I love the positivity of this quote! We often hear this saying used as an encouragement via someone going through some difficulties. But here on Maui, it is often uttered when one is discouraged the rain will ruin their plans. Oh, Maui rainbows are the best! Have you seen one lately?

Filipino Style Rainy Days To Do. This is for us Filipinos who love to sing! When it is rainy days and we are stuck inside our house, why not do some karaoke singing. You can sing "Rainy Days and Mondays" by the Carpenters, "Tuwing Umuulan" by Regine Velazquez or "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by the late-great Israel "Iz" Kamakawiwo'ole. Happy Singing! 🌟

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She's been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a



The West Maui mountains are turning green! This expression often comes from local residents who see the transition of West Maui mountains turn from brown to green.
IMAGE COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

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.

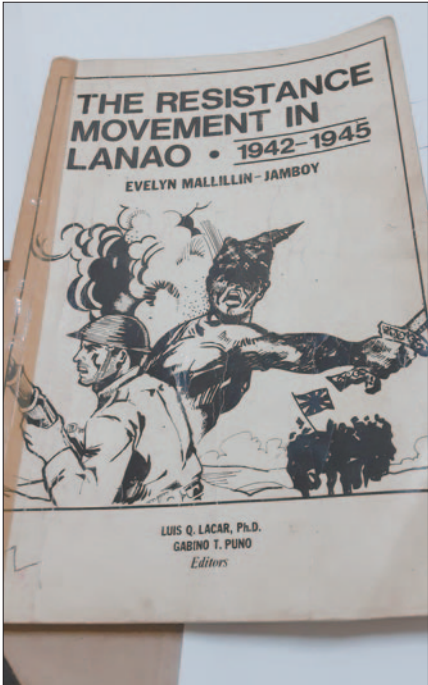


Bolo Men ...

from p. 11

Filipino soldiers including the Bolo Men—is not told as often and as publicly as other soldiers. We must continue to share these stories with our family members so these stories can be retold in the proper context: **Filipinos have the spirit to defend their country and their beliefs—no matter the cost—and sometimes, armed only with a bolo knife.**

✳️ **Evangelista** recently visited the monument in Waipahu. In addition to the plight of Filipino veterans, he believes one of the untold stories is that of the Filipino community who assisted the veterans who began arriving from the Philippines in 1992 without a place to stay, causing many of them to be briefly housed at the Philippine Consulate General. Community leader Mila Medallion continuously advocated and assisted these Filipino veterans—even to this day despite her failing health. She



A pamphlet describes how the villagers of Lanao fought against the Japanese.
PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

is an unsung hero in helping to tell these untold stories.

MAHALO!

To all the golfers, volunteers and everyone who helped make the 2023 Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament a huge success! Maraming salamat po, especially to our Scholarship Partners, Sponsors and Donors. Through everyone’s efforts, Binhi at Ani expects to award twenty-four scholarships—four at the \$2,000 level and twenty at the \$1,000 level.



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