



**Giving Thanks Anywhere**  
A favorite holiday for Dinengdeng & Pinakbet author.  
See p5



**UHMC Kabatak Club Social**  
Call for attendance.  
See p11



**Bayanihan Feeding Program**  
Binhi at Ani continues to provide for Hale Mahaolu.  
See p10



# Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

November 2023 • Vol 7 No11 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE**

## inside



Google is Not Everything  
author eyes superstition.  
p12



Tension abounds while  
learning our Filipino  
languages.  
p13



Consul General has a very  
busy month.  
p14



Nora Cabanilla-Takushi (right, front row), her brother Jose Cabanilla, Sr. (second from left, back row) and other Lahaina fire survivors with delegates to the annual convention of the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Club.  
PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

## Lahaina Fire Survivors Continue To Face An Uncertain Future

*Binhi at Ani’s Tulong for Lahaina® Fund begins distributing aid.*

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

“**A**nia ngarud adding ko siak kuma ti pagkam-agan dagitoy anako ket kastoy met awan balay me nga agaamaa,” cried Jose Cabanilla, Sr. to his sister Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, when the family finally gathered a week after the Lahaina fires. Cabanilla-Takushi, recounting the story to those attending the 73rd annual convention of the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs in Honolulu, responded with a heavy heart: “I FEEL for you Manong but let’s count our blessings because God was with us. We

are all alive--your kids, your grandkids and your great grandchildren.”  
Three months after the Lahaina fire, survivors still face an uncertain future. Many remain reluctant to share their memories but Cabanilla-Takushi found the courage to speak in front of the one hundred fifty Convention delegates and guests.  
“I listened to the story of Ian, my brother’s Apo,” she recounted. “On August 8, school was closed so he was home, watching his nephew and niece. They noticed the black

smoke close to their home so he grabbed his niece and told her to close her eyes and Ian put his nephew on his back and ran out of the house towards Front Street. Ian was so scared but he needed to be strong for his nephew and niece.”  
Ian described running for about half a mile before someone picked them up. Ian then noticed his parents’ car two cars ahead in the queue, explained Cabanilla-Takushi. “So he told the driver ‘Please follow that car, it’s my parents.’” In his parents’ car was

an elderly couple from the mainland. Ian’s parents had gotten those strangers out of their burning car and were taking them to the Lahaina Civic Center shelter site. “With God’s blessings, they were all reunited [there],” she noted.  
Cabanilla-Takushi revealed in the aftermath, “Unfortunately, within two months, Ian and his brother’s family decided to move to the mainland and we hope within five years they will return.” “Like everyone, our families are displaced due to unlivable condi-

see SURVIVORS p.2

FREE



# Maui, WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

During this month of thanks, our hearts are full of gratitude for all of your support!



## SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE HEROES DEVASTATED BY WILDFIRES



In the wake of the devastating Maui wildfires that left thousands without homes, 31 of our own Maui Health personnel suffered a complete loss of their homes. Maui Health nurse Christina Pilapil was among them.

After moving from one hotel to another several times in the weeks following the fire, Christina continues to worry about what the future looks like for her family of seven.

"We're so thankful to have been provided short-term lodging, but moving over and over with my husband, 9-year-old daughter, three kupuna, and dog, has been incredibly hard. We're looking for somewhere to call home for a little while," said Christina.

Christina and many others are still desperately seeking short- and long-term rentals; many of whom have large extended families. Together with Maui Health Foundation and our community, Maui Health was able to place employees in short-term housing and provide monetary support immediately following the fires. However, locating longer-term accommodations for larger families has been challenging.

Despite the challenges, Christina is hopeful and grateful. The way our community showed up and quickly came together to support each other from providing supplies and food to donating time and monetary funds — it's simply incredible.

"This experience has made us stronger and brought us closer to God," she said. "To anyone else out there suffering, don't give up. Have faith in God."

*If you have rentals or any suitable housing options, please consider renting to our healthcare 'ohana. If you want to put your rental on a list specifically for healthcare workers, please contact Gabriel Bolivar at (808) 442-5772 or [gabriel.a.bolivar@kp.org](mailto:gabriel.a.bolivar@kp.org).*

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



Jeanice Paa assists with registration at the initial distribution of the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund  
PHOTO ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA.

## Survivors ...

from p. 1

tions," she observes. "We just don't know where to start. God, please give us the strength through your goodness. The Cabanilla family who've been in Hawaii since 1946 have lost nineteen homes. With God's blessings, we are Lahaina Fire Survivors."

On Sunday, October 22, one hundred applicants received the initial distribution of the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund coordinated by Binhi at Ani. (All funds received are distributed; Binhi at Ani does not use any funds for any administrative, personnel or volunteer costs.) In addition to the \$750 check, Binhi at Ani provided recipients with a gift card from the Lions Club, four hot plate lunches, a food box, water, toilet paper and a homemade quilt from The Maui Quilt Shop.

Most of the first applicants completed a survey regarding their experience with housing assistance, property insurance, mortgage insurance, rebuilding, loss of job, language assistance, number of household members, among other matters. While a survey is just a snapshot of responses from those who received the initial Tulong for Lahaina® Fund distributions, it provides interesting information about their outlook moving forward.

Almost every recipient continues to identify financial assistance as an ongoing need and worry. One poignantly and succinctly admitted: "Don't know-

day to day." In terms of demographics, sixty percent of the recipients were households with a minor. (One household had six minors and another household had seven minors.) Twenty-six percent had a household of less than four family members. Fifty percent of the recipients had a household of between four and six family mem-



Receiving a homemade quilt from Maui Quilt Shop.  
PHOTO ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

bers while eighteen percent had between six and nine family members and five percent had a household of more than ten family members.

Housing understandably dominated concern. Only forty percent received financial housing assistance. Seventy percent have been living in a hotel since the fire with the remainder sheltering with relatives or friends. One family moved to the Philippines.

Uncertainty appears common. One household of five, including a minor, staying in a hotel, expressed a need for more information on the dates and the requirements to remain at the hotel. The "check-out date" worried another family. A household of three with one minor noted their hotel room did not include a kitchen to cook any meals.

see SURVIVORS p.4



The Cabanilla's complete the survey.  
PHOTO ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

# Have a Blessed Thanksgiving



... and remember to plan for your estate



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COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI

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At least forty percent of Lahaina's residents are of Filipino ancestry and our *kababayan* needs our *tulong*—our help. A process was created to grant \$750 to those who 1) as a homeowner, lost their principal place of residence; 2) as a business owner, lost their business in a brick and mortar setting; or 3) lost an immediate family member.

Donations are needed as there are over seven hundred applicants.

To donate, send your 100 percent tax deductible check payable to Binhi at Ani at 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 or donate via credit card through [www.binhiatani.org](http://www.binhiatani.org). Or donate through the QR code below. Any questions, contact Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 294-5510.



### “We support the Tulong for Lahaina<sup>®</sup> Fund”



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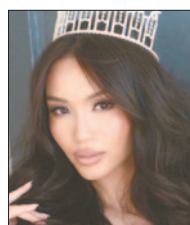
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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

SO VERY  
thankful  
INCREDIBLY  
grateful  
UNBELIEVABLY  
blessed

## Gratitude in Troubled Times

There are many troubles in our world today: an earthquake in Turkey, flooding in Libya, wars in Ukraine and Israel, Hamas senselessly killing numerous people, of which many are innocent children and elders, and in the most barbaric, cruel and inhumane ways that go back to ancient times, demonstrating their lack of respect and value for the life of others. In our beloved island home—wildfires in historic Lahaina and the lush forests of Kula have devastated both personal and business properties of long-time residents, also enjoyed by the millions of visitors from around the world, providing the means to our economic stability and a joyful lifestyle. Homelessness, abuse and neglect, depression, continued mass shootings, increasing incidents of human trafficking, pollution of our oceans and waterways, a variety

of natural disasters occurring worldwide, all give us much to be concerned about as we look to the future.

Will the suffering ever end? Will we have peace on earth? Will we have the determination and courage to address climate change that many scientific experts believe are the cause of so many wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes which have destroyed communities? Are our elected leaders responsive to the suffering of the people they serve, or simply ignoring their urgent pleas for immediate help?

No one is exempt from suffering. No one is too good to avoid it. Simple answers or clichés will not suffice in easing the deep pain in our lives. We may not ever understand why we are suffering, but we can trust in God for His

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



Setting up the food boxes.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

## Survivors ...

from p. 2

Many, including families with minors, continue looking for affordable housing on the West side. Months after the fire, one family was still waiting for a call from the Red Cross. “We could not find lodging that allows a family of nine (which included three minors),” wrote another recipient. A household of seven, which included two minors, have not secured a house to rent. A household of four including one minor worried: “I need a three bedroom for my family.”

For those with pets, the housing situation provides additional challenges. “I need a three to four bedroom that will allow six pets,” wrote a recipient whose household of eight included one minor.

Those in temporary housing outside of the resorts worried about what would happen after their agreements terminated. “The short-term unit is only available until the end of January 2024,” wrote a recipient whose family of four included two minors. Another family noted it would need “rental assistance after we exhaust the twelve months [insurance] coverage for housing.” Others needed “money to pay rent” and “financial aid for housing.”

Those who lost their homes remain optimistic, however, as ninety-eight percent plan on rebuilding. Only one person who responded had not decided about rebuilding. (By

contrast, almost thirty percent of the merchants who lost their business do not plan to rebuild.)

One recipient bluntly questioned the rebuilding process. “My concern when can we rebuild. How many years?” Another understood that “rental assistance (would be needed) while rebuilding the home.”

Another major challenge for the recipients is homeowner's insurance and mortgage insurance.

Only five recipients had no insurance on their property or business. For those who already contacted their insurance company, many were waiting for their claim to be processed. (One was waiting for the probate process to be completed.) Some noted they were having difficulties: “Yes but giving us hard time to claim.” A few noted they were underinsured, with one recipient writing “pushback on claim, underinsured for rebuild.” Others were having a “problem with personal property claim” or needing “to complete personal list of contents.”

Not all property owners had coverage. Almost thirty percent had no mortgage insurance. Of those who had policies, many requested and received deferments. One recipient noted “It was automatically done for three months only.” Many others noted the deferment was only for three months; one recipient received a four-month deferment. A number of recipients declined to apply for a mortgage deferment. “I declined for financial reasons (accrualment of in-

see SURVIVORS p.6



Cooking pinakbet.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



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Thanksgiving dessert pies. What don't I love about a Thanksgiving meal?  
PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## Thanksgiving Has Always Been My Favorite Holiday

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

**G**ranted, my family never had a Hallmark card gathering around the table for a meal with the good china. Growing up, someone in the extended clan would host and roast a turkey or ham while the rest of us would bring other dishes potluck style—a Thanksgiving menu blending the expected Pilgrim fare, local favorites and Ilocano entrées.

We'd serve ourselves buffet style on paper plates and scatter throughout the house or yard to eat, or watch the Cowboys or Lions game. Now there are maybe three NFL games that day. I don't recall drunk uncle moments or angry political talk (except once when I put my foot in my mouth while in Los Angeles in law school visiting kin and made a snarky remark about the Marcos regime—never realized there was no running water or schools in Ilocos before President Marcos).

During college (in an era before cellphones and email), I spent four of those holidays visiting various mainland towns.

First year, I traveled at the end of Indian Summer—when the leaves are still changing color in New England—with one of my freshman college roommates to his uncle and aunt's home in Greenwich, Conn.,

followed by a drive into New York City. We had lunch at the home of their friends which overlooked the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade route—Underdog passed by the window where we watched warm and cozy while the people along the roadway were bundled up for the winter chill.

We weren't the only guests arranged at a long table in a formal dining room, although I now realize I was the only Filipino there. I suppose I was always one of the few people of color at these gatherings. Finding out I was from Hawai'i, folks asked if I'd attended Punahou School since I was enrolled at that college in New Haven. I told them I was graduated from Maui High School which was not as familiar to them—the island had not yet been branded as a destination of its own in Hawai'i.

It was the first sit-down holiday dinner I'd attended. The meal was the traditional American menu of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and yams, and pumpkin pie. Our host at one point expressed some disappointment his son had not gotten into one of the Ancient Eight. My roommate and I found that uncomfortable but the wine was very good.

Another year I went to Chicago

see THANKSGIVING p.7



### Giving Thanks

In the wake of the catastrophic wildfires in August, we'd like to take a moment to express a heartfelt mahalo for the incredible outpouring of aloha for Maui.

Bayer's vision is Health for All, Hunger for None. Achieving it will take many hands, heads and hearts working together. We are humbled to be part of a community that cares so deeply for each other, and remain committed to do our part as well, from helping with disaster relief to supporting students and schools, encouraging local agriculture, and partnering with non-profits help build a stronger and resilient future for all.

Our warmest mahalo and well wishes to you and yours.

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Packing the hot meals.  
PHOTO ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii members in front of the Sakada Wall at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

# Survivors ...

from p. 4

terest).” “They charge late fees and will affect my credit score.” Other recipients were not allowed a deferment or had a problem with the lender.

The other major area of concern is job loss. Thirty-six percent lost their jobs. Most applied for benefits (unemployment or disaster unemployment assistance) but some did not or were not qualified. Several were still waiting for the claim to be processed. “They said by following up the process we just have to wait.”

Almost fifteen percent admitted needing emotional help and support. Less than three percent (only two respondents) required language assis-

tance. Sixty-four percent preferred not to tell their stories on the record to the media.

The first recipients generally appreciated the grants. One wrote “Thank you for this support for our Filipino community especially immigrant families. My heart is overwhelmed by your generosity.”

The generosity of funding the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund mainly came from individuals and organizations off island. Even many of the volunteers who helped to pack the food boxes, prep the food and cook the food for the plate lunches came from off island.

Approximately twenty-five members of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii based on Oahu flew to Maui to assist with the initial distribution on October 22. “The mission of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii is “To rebuild communities here (Hawaii) and in our homeland (Ilocos Sur),” explained Loida Alimboyoguen-Yamamoto, president of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii. “When we first learned of the Lahaina wildfires and many of our fellow Filipinos were affected, I proposed and received the approval from the board of a \$10,000 donation. Our hearts as true Ilokanos are in the right places and we wanted our donation to go directly to where it should be which prompted us to send our donation to Binhi at Ani, being cognizant of the immediate need of the prequalified recipients of our organization’s financial response among other support including our

see SURVIVORS p.9



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

presence in all of our situations.

Despite the many challenges and heart aches we all face, there is so much to be grateful for. As we are all aware, November is known for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us all express our gratitude to our active military and veterans for their service and for protecting our freedom, keeping us safe, preserving our democratic values enshrined in our Constitution. What are you grateful for this season?

As for me, I am grateful first and foremost to our living God for His many blessings, grace and mercy. Also, I am grateful for my family and friends, for their unconditional love, encouragement and support.

There are many reasons why it is important to have the heart of gratitude—and here are a few (there may be more) that may help us understand the power of extending genuine gratitude:


- helps us build healthy relationships;
- helps us feel more positive emotions;
- invites us to relish good experiences;
- improves our health;
- gives us the capacity to deal with adversity;

- shows us that sharing our personal gratitude often brings joy to others;

Here are the key pillars of genuine gratitude:

- empathy;
- humility;
- integrity;
- sincerity;

When we exercise these characteristics of extending gratitude, it unlocks the fullness of life and will turn what we have into enough. There is a saying that gratitude can turn a “meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.” It is so easy to forget what abundance we already have—and when we appreciate ourselves and each other, we also can acknowledge that what we have is enough, and are better able to lessen, to decrease the quest for more, more, and more. Let’s all be peacemakers, generous givers, encouragers, who shine our light in this dark world. And most of all, let us show genuine love to those people around us who may be facing challenges and heartaches during this Thanksgiving holiday and beyond. Blessings to ALL!

  
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR





Traditional Thanksgiving fare (From top left, clockwise) of turkey with ham and dressing is served during times I was with friends or family on the Mainland. Thanksgiving with the clan—friends and family—here on Maui was always a mix of potluck dishes and home-cooked Filipino food along with some of the traditional Thanksgiving fare.  
PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

# Thanksgiving ...

from p. 5

with a second roommate (with a side trip to the University of Wisconsin for a hockey game and fraternity party, spending the night on the floor of his high school classmate's dorm room). It was my first experience with large scale Greek life. Dinner was with his family in Highland Park, Ill., a suburb later depicted in an early Tom Cruise movie, *Risky Business* (1983). I only noticed people's homes in my college friends' towns were bigger than the houses in Kahului.

Junior year I caught a Greyhound bus to upstate New York for Thanksgiving with a "summer team" member. Those teams annually served Doris Todd Memorial Christian Day School and church on Maui, made up of students from various Christian and Bible colleges. They worked on maintenance on the school and church property, witnessing to local kids, and counseling at Christian

Camp held at Camp Maluhia. I'd kept in touch with him after re-connecting while visiting Liberty Baptist College during Spring Break freshman year. Thanksgiving with him was communal, with the centerpiece a Thanksgiving Day Church service followed by a luncheon.

After college Thanksgiving meals were usually with classmates during law school (potluck of the traditional American menu) and with friends while living on O'ahu—back to small kid time. We took part in the turkey fryer phase and the communal *imu* at Campbell Industrial Park. We also lazily ordered Thanksgiving food from Zippy's.

My wife's clan shared fairly traditional meals, with her five brothers and sisters and their families all gathering to the family's Hill Country ranch from Austin, Houston, Santa Monica and, of course, Maui. There was an adult table and another for a large brood of grandchildren. With a number of skilled cooks in the family, dinner was a sumptuous affair.

Some years ago, it was during a

Thanksgiving gathering at my mother's house that we learned my father-in-law had passed away accidentally. He and my mother-in-law were spending the event with a brother-in-law and his friends in Marfa, an isolated artist colony in West Texas. My wife's family had not gathered that year in Austin for the holiday. Instead, we would all travel to Austin for the funeral and then a few days later fly to Hilton Head for their uncle's funeral as well.

Since his passing, her clan has held gatherings at her siblings' homes in Austin and Houston. Some years have just been some siblings and some grandchildren as they scattered off to college. But the skilled cooks have still served fine meals.

In recent years, we've accepted invitations to friends' larger gatherings for lunch. With my sister sometimes working on

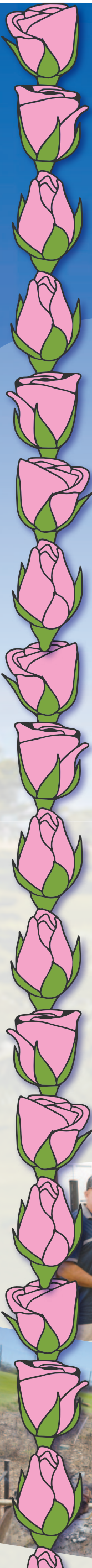
Thanksgiving Day, we've planned more intimate dinners instead—usually just my mother and spouse with my sister and others in our immediate household. We've cooked a little bit of turkey (perhaps a breast or a leg since few in the family really liked big fowl), some ham or prime rib, a *pinakbet* or *dinengdeng* of what was in the garden, and some apple or pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving Day remains filled with memories and lessons. Lessons I'm still piecing together and remembering. I understand some of the history and myths about it, and the meanings we've woven into the day—both religiously (church service) and secularly (football, Black Friday)—and personally. It's perhaps still my favorite holiday. ✨

Retired from State service, **Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku.







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*For Lahaina*

COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI

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Art Abinsay • Tessie Aganon • Arnel Alvarez • Espie Badua • Melen Bumanglag • Nora Cabanilla-Takushi • Ben Cabrerios • Angie Calaro • Arlene Calinao • Kaleo Castillo • Emelyn Damo • Ivy Doeso • Aimee Esquivel • Rudy Esquivel • Bernadette Fajardo • Christine Fehn • Tina Fernandez • Mike Gamiao • Rick Gamiao • Sherry Gamiao • Ruben Labrador • Wilma Luangphinit • Ailyn Lum • Tim Lum • Zelda Medina • Clarita Miraflor • Salvador Obaldo • Lawrence Pascua • Isabel Rivera Phu • Thomas Quintos • Cora Salvador • Tina Salvador • Cathy Sarmiento • Joshua Sarmiento • Cizette Sato • Espie Sumibcay • Josie Takamoto • Roger Tapat • Thu Tran





Survivors ...  
from p. 6

participation as volunteers in the feeding program. We traveled to Maui at our own expense for their first distribution to see firsthand what Binhi at Ani is all about. And thanks to Atty. Alfredo Evangelista, their legal counsel, for giving us a tour of their facility and their history. The tour educated us as how Binhi at Ani helps our fellow Filipinos on Maui by implementing many humanitarian programs. I learned and found a common ground between Binhi at Ani and ISAH, for we are both volunteer-based organizations.”

Former State Representative Felipe “Jun” Abinsay, Jr., an advisor to the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, proposed the idea of raising funds through a golf tournament and the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors agreed. “The Binhi at Ani Board of Directors was pleased our kababayans on Oahu wanted to assist the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund by coordinating a golf tournament,” said Binhi at Ani leader Melen Agcolicol. “As president, I was touched by their generosity and their offer of tulong.”

The golf committee was chaired by Abinsay and co-chaired by Rito Saniatan (an active member of the Fil-Am golf clubs on Oahu), Steven Sombrero (whose company Aloha Beer Co. was the Title Sponsor), Jack Legal (a Past President of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and the Hawaii Association of Realtors), Alimboyoguen-Yamamoto, Raymond Sebastian

(the current president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council) and Angie Santiago (the current president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii) with oversight provided by Agcolicol, Arnel Alvarez (Vice President of Binhi at Ani) and the Legal Counsel of Binhi at Ani. “We were cognizant of the tremendous need in assisting the noble coordination effort of Binhi at Ani’s Tulong for Lahaina® Fund,” said Abinsay. “Together with many kind-hearted individuals and businessmen who are avid golf aficionados including Steve Sombrero from Aloha Beer who pro-actively responded to participate as Title Sponsor as well as be one of the Co-Chairs, we planned a golf tournament to help raise funds.”

The tournament, held on November 9 at the Hoakalei Country Club, attracted 132 golfers (44 teams of three golfers)—with players coming from the business, government, non-profit, finance, real estate, construction and union sectors.

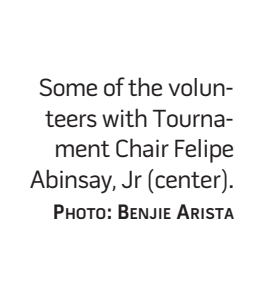
The first-place team—winning the Governor’s Cup sponsored by Governor Josh Green—was the Kirk Fehn Team consisting of John Bryant, Joel Wintjen and Kirk Fehn, with a net of 52.37. (Wintjen also won the Jackpot hole at #6, with a distance of seventy-seven inches, receiving \$895.00—fifty percent of the donations to the Jackpot.)

The other teams who placed in the top ten were: Aloha Beer Co. (Steven Sombrero, Kacie Hirotsu and Aaron Poentis) with a net of 58.16; Laborers Union Local 368 (Peter Ganaban, Rocco Davis and Mike Dunncliffe) with a

see SURVIVORS p.19



Felipe Abinsay, Jr. (right) presents a golf shirt to Darren Sano of Hoakalei Country Club (second from left), along with Rito Saniatan and Jack Legal.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Some of the volunteers with Tournament Chair Felipe Abinsay, Jr (center).  
PHOTO: BENJIE ARISTA



The Copy Services team played alongside the Hawaii Association of Realtors team.  
PHOTO BENJIE ARISTA



Binhi at Ani Advisory Board Member Lui Hokoana (Chancellor of UHMC) played with the Ironworkers Stabilization Fund Team (led by T. George Paris).  
PHOTO BENJIE ARISTA



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Community... In Action



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is open for your celebrations.  
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



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

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 and/or served, there is an additional fee of \$300 and you must hire two licensed bartenders. Self-service coolers and/or BYOB (guests providing their own alcohol) are NOT allowed.

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



2 p.m. Telephone (808) 877-7880.

**A Bayanihan Christmas** is set for Wednesday, Dec. 6 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Last year, the event raised over \$7,000 for the In Memory of Agrifina “Aggie” Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarships, resulting in three \$2,000 scholarships awarded. This year’s funds will be allocated between the Cabebe Scholarship and the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund. Sponsorships/Premier tables are available at \$1,000 for a table of ten while individual seats are available at \$50. Contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100.

**Bayanihan Feeding Program** provides a Sunday lunch to Hale



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi) and Maui Adult Day Care. As of Oct. 31, a total of 20,002 meals were delivered. Teams serving during October included Bayer Crop Science Hawai’i, Binhi at Ani Board of Directors, Hawai’i Job Corps, Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai’i and UHMC Kabatak Club. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

Create a Team by contacting Lucy Porte at (808)

276-8026. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe’e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

The Bayanihan Feeding Program is supported by grants from Bayer Crop Science Hawai’i and Nareit Hawai’i.

**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** classes are continuing. They are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enhance@Fitness is a low-cost ongoing evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program helping older



Binhi at Ani continues its “Bayanihan Feeding Program,” providing hot meals to Hale Mahaolu residents in partnership with sponsors and community volunteers.  
FILE PHOTOS COURTESY FIL-AM VOICE





UHMC's Kabatak Club will hold their "Holly Jolly Pasko Social" on Friday, Dec. 15..  
IMAGE COURTESY UHMC KABATAK C;UB

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 Kick (808) 280-6251 or gkick@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

**MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Rizal Day Celebration and Installation of Officers for the Maui Filipino Community Council is set for December 30, 2023 at Maui Beach Hotel's Moana Ballroom. For more information, contact Marilyn Romero at (808) 280-2057.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE KABATAK CLUB**

The Holly Jolly Pasko Social will be

held on Dec. 15 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Pilina Event Center. Enjoy a festive potluck, White Elephant Gift Exchange, Ugly Sweater Contest, and more! Register at <https://l.instagram.com/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FhaNuUhFvsHLvHsgX9&e=AT1pqgJHwk00GnHGxuS58er69HnD2uD7f5FM0hydVAC-KQTpUMYwQDZZvkgbM1XNlopgluRouoNpq7u1jT6Sn8QanYnWIGn3FUIDKe4PHTJulamvvPRv4w> or email [mauikabatak@gmail.com](mailto:mauikabatak@gmail.com).



Rizal Day celebration and MFCC installation of its officers will be on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 30.  
IMAGE COURTESY LAWRENCE PASCUA

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Ammylei Padilla



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Arianna Illustrisimo



Micah Mangisel



Cassandra Navarro

October is celebrated as the National Filipino American History Month! While I agree with the idea of connecting and learning about the history of our country with our roots in America, I would love to explore the idea of Filipino superstitions and our mythological creatures! In our long list of stories about mythological creatures and the different superstitions, it has me wondering, where did this all originate?

Between personal experience, talking with the experts (my grandparents) and a quick search on Google, they all seem to originate from protection. The existence of these superstitions and creatures has kept us from fearing the unknown. Believing these creatures exist or doing certain things can harm us keeps us alert and safe in our everyday life.

Like I mentioned, there are many different stories about mythological creatures. I am sure the same follows with the context the different superstitions are used in. As the second gen-



# Is Not Everything ... Unbelievable Tales

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

eration of my family to be born in America—especially Hawai‘i—I hear different variations of sayings I grew up with every day from my peers. Every family tells a different tale, but I will be sharing the favorite superstitions of others and their experiences with the reasoning behind the same tale I grew up with.

First, my favorite superstition is “Do not walk over someone laying down on the ground or else the person on the ground will stop growing.”

This saying is especially relevant to me because I believe people walked all over me. It is the only explanation to why I am a mere four feet and nine-inch inches while all my younger siblings and parents are quickly growing to be over five feet. Genetics and heredity tried their best but the Filipino superstition was just stronger. Obviously I am joking about that one but it does make me laugh.

My grandma is the one who always encourages me to follow these superstitions and to stay clear of these different creatures. I often overhear her telling my siblings “*Alah*, don’t do that before *Mumu* gets you!” The *Mumu* is the Philippine’s version of the boogeyman. In other folktales, the *Mumu* is also known as the popular creature: the *Aswang*. A shapeshifting monster. In my family, we believe the two are separate but seeing the photos of the *Mumu* on Google is quite terrifying and always kept my siblings out of trouble.

**Ammylei Padilla** and **Janezza Haluber** both like the superstition “Don’t sleep with your hair wet.” Although this superstition is their favorite, Janezza believes it because of her mom’s insistence but Ammylei does not believe it and thinks it is really funny. Both learned about this superstition because of their family.

In my family, I was told if I were to sleep with my hair wet, I would become blind. It is an interesting take on the superstition but I do not entirely believe that it is untrue. Because the temperature is cooler at night, there is a greater risk of becoming sick. I am not exactly sure how it would make someone blind but I do believe not sleeping with our hair wet does keep us healthy.

**Arianna Illustrisimo**’s favorite superstition is “Don’t go straight home after attending a wake.” A wake is a social gathering that happens before a funeral. “In the context of a wake, it means going elsewhere after attending the wake before heading home to shake off the spirit of the deceased lest it follows you home,” Arianna explains. Arianna learned this superstition from her grandparents, her Filipino club and by reading online arti-

cles. This superstition is not unbelievable. A funeral is where they lay one’s body to rest but their soul and spirit are very lively. Immediately after a wake, you may feel sad, numb and so on. Not going directly home after attending a wake gives one the opportunity to take one’s mind off the event, consequently, letting the idea of the person rest in your mind.

Lastly, I would like to speak about superstitions and creatures I personally have never grown up with. **Micah Mangisel**’s favorite superstition is to “Take off your bra before you sleep.” Because there is no scientific evidence and it feels like a ploy to scare her, she does not believe in the superstition.

I personally have never been told this but my mom and my aunties all reminisce on the moments they were told this exact superstition. They do not remember what the consequence of sleeping in your bra is but I assume it is because of the increased comfortability that can be achieved.

**Cassandra Navarro**’s favorite superstition includes a mythological creature. “Whenever it’s raining while the sun is out, a *Tikbalang* is getting married.” A *Tikbalang* is a creature with a human body and a horse head, a reversed minotaur. It is said these creatures hide in the mountains and rainforests to scare and play pranks on travelers. While Cassandra says she does not believe in the *Tikbalang*, she does believe in the *Manananggal*.

The *Manananggal* is a creature with wings that can split its body in half. It looks like a regular person during the day but when night arrives, it splits off to prey on pregnant women. It is a very scary creature to look at.

Looking into the deeper meaning of the superstition, I believe knowing these creatures are getting married in certain weather conditions discourages people from going out. This keeps people safe because rain often causes people to get sick. Knowing this superstition may scare people, and keep them inside, safe and dry!

While most of these superstitions seem unbelievable, and the creatures seem too good or too scary to be true, it does not mean they do not truly exist. It also does not mean logical reasoning cannot be applied when thinking about a different purpose for these beliefs.

Being safe and feeling protected is important. Most of our families are teaching us these beliefs and sayings to ensure such things. Sometimes it is difficult to read in between the lines but the true origination of these superstitions and folktales of creatures is rooted in the idea of togetherness.

see GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING p.18

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12 | Fil-Am Voice | November 2023 | Vol 7 • No 11





It’s my favorite month! Why is that? It’s because it’s my birth month. I am happy when November comes because I am going to be a year wiser and older. I am forever grateful for the gift of life. Four decades and more is not an easy one. There were—and I still have—bumps on the road but it’s what makes the ride exciting and fulfilling.

In the Philippines, November 1st is All Saint’s Day and November 2nd is All Soul’s Day. It is the day when we remember our loved ones who have passed away. A few days before the beginning of the month, people clean the cemetery where their loved ones were laid to rest. Some just hire people to clean and repair the memorials.

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

Families go to the cemeteries and visit their loved ones. They light a candle, bring flowers and hang out with their loved ones—dead and alive. They bring food and it becomes a party.

In the U.S., there are two holidays this month. Veteran’s Day is on November 11. This is the time to honor all those who served the country—our U.S. Veterans of the armed forces and victims of all wars. Thank you for your service and sacrifices for the

country. The other holiday is Thanksgiving Day, November 23. It is a day of giving thanks and sacrifices for the autumn harvest and other blessings of the past year. I hope you are not just thankful on this day but every day of your life. Start your day with a grateful heart. May this month be a special one for you as you enjoy all thirty days.

Shout out to our November Birthday celebrants: Ben Acob, Annie

Ramos, Leticia Domingo, Helen Bueno Velasco, Efren Delos Reyes, Felmar Guiwa, Rose Anne Rafael, Hazel Kheizabel Valiente, Alfredo Dumlao, Mary Grace Joy Andam, Dianne Alexie Butay-Guiwa, Peter Villanueva and Eileen Andrea Bueno Verkhov. Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa iyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

Let’s see what’s going on with our story this month and where Michael and Angel will be going next, shall we?

“WE HAVE *TRABAHO* (work) to do,” Ray tells Michael and looks at him in the eyes with a blank expression.

“Ahh loosen up Sergeant, *obro* (work) can wait,” says Katherine to Ray and takes a seat next to Michael. “Family comes first before *trabahu* (work).”

Ray does not argue, he follows Katherine and sits next to her.

Ray takes the plates from Angel and notices she is shaking.

“Family first,” he says, looking at Angel in her eyes seriously. “*Maraming Salamat* (thank you), Angel,” he says softly, still looking Angel in the eye.

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
Here	Dito	Dituy	Diri / Dinhi	Diri	Tawe	Keni
Table	Lamesa	Lamisaan	Lamisa	Hapag	Lamisa	Lamesa
Work	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
Beatiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Thank you	Maraming Salamat	Agyamanak	Daghang salamat	Madamogud nga salamat	Mabbalo	Dacal a salamat
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Unsa?	Ano?	Anni’?	Nanoyin?
Food	Pagkain	Makan	Pagkaon	Pagkaon	Kanan	Kapangan

*salamat* (Thank you) for the *pagkain* (food). I’m just getting full but I will finish what is on my plate. I don’t want to waste *pagkaon* (food). There’s a lot of people who don’t have *kapangan* (food) on their table,” she says quietly.

“Well, that was a delicious meal, my dear sister-in-law. *Madamogud nga salamat!* (Thank you).” Ray turns to Michael’s mom. “As always, you are a great cook. No wonder my brother has been gaining weight every time I see him.” He laughs then he turns serious and says, “I have to go get something in the car and will wait in the living room. Michael, we have things to talk about.” He wipes his mouth, stands up

and exits through the front *puwerta* (door).

Everyone is left quietly finishing their *kanan* (food) on their plate.

Didn’t that feel awkward? It feels like it was the last supper. Are you able to enjoy your food knowing there will be a serious talk after? Don’t forget to be grateful for the people we still have in life and the food we have at the table.

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** graduated from Maui High School and received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College.

(beautiful) lady.”

“Angel,” Michael’s mom turns to Angel and asks, “Are you and Mikey boyfriend/girlfriend?”

Angel’s *mukha* (face) turns red and she says “Michael and I…” in a shaky voice.

Michael interrupts her and says, “Mom, Angel and I are still getting to know each other. We hang out but I have not formally courted her.”

“Well, Michael, I raised you well so you should know what you are doing and you should use your brain wisely,” his mom tells him scoldingly.

“Well, that is good that our Mikey is still getting to know Angel so we know who part of our family will be,” Ray says seriously, looking at Angel.

Angel gets scared with Ray looking at her seriously. She holds on to the *lamisa* (table).

“What is he thinking? Does he know about the incident on O’ahu?

But that was over a year ago. Oh gosh, doesn’t he like me for his nephew? Maybe because I am poor or not pretty enough. I don’t dress up. I only wear a T-shirt and pants. I don’t really have a lot of clothes. I’ve been *trabahu* (working) job after job but Aunt Lydia is taking all the money I am making so I haven’t really earned anything. I haven’t even been able to send money to my family,” she says to herself. She looks down at her plate so they will not see the tears forming in her eyes.

“Angel … Angel!” Mikey calls her and snaps his fingers to get her attention.

“Ha?!” Angel asks confusedly.

“Mom is asking if you don’t like her cooking or you want something else to eat. Looks like you didn’t even touch the *makan* (food) on your plate,” Michael says.

“The food is delicious. *Daghang*



# A BUSY TIME FOR THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

With the end of the year fast approaching, there's often a rush to complete a variety of tasks. At the Philippine Consulate, there's a lot of truth to that.

In early October, Hawai'i welcomed Senator Imee Marcos and her contingent of Mayors and other local government officials. The Consulate was at the forefront to ensure Senator Marcos was properly hosted. Included in Senator Marcos' brief stay was a short hop to Maui to meet with some thirty Lahaina fire survivors and relatives of fatalities. Many thanks to our friends on Maui, especially Fred Evangelista as well as Tante and Telly Urban of Tante's Island Cuisine, who hosted and helped coordinate the arrangements at such a very short notice.

Fresh on the heels of Senator Marcos' visit, the staff is preparing for the visit to O'ahu by His Excellency Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., President of the Re-

public of the Philippines. The Consulate's three efficient officers—Consul Pam Bailon, Consul Grace Bulos and Vice Consul Leizel Caasi—have been tasked with coordinating the President's engagement with representatives of Hawai'i's Filipino community throughout the State and activities at the US Indo-Pacific Command. As one can imagine, it is not an easy task for so many reasons.

President Marcos will arrive on O'ahu on Saturday, Nov. 18, after attending the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, California. The President's attendance to the APEC Summit is important for the Philippines as it serves as the country's primary forum for official engagements with other economies in the Asia Pacific region. APEC economies play a significant role in the Philippines, accounting for



**PHOTO LEFT: Senator Imee Marcos** and Consul General Fernandez greeted Kevin Baclic who lost nine family members during Sen. Imee's short visit to Maui.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



**PHOTO RIGHT: President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.** will arrive on O'ahu on Saturday, Nov. 18, after attending the 21-member APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, California.

PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL OF HONOLULU

85 percent of the country's total exports and imports, and approximately 56 percent of the foreign direct investments that entered the country.

From Nov. 2 through 5, several Consular staff officials, led by Consul Grace Bulos, returned to Maui to continue to aid the Lahaina fire survivors. This was the third visit to Maui by the Consulate's staff. Along with the provision of consular services, the staff was able to meet with representatives of the Language Services Hawai'i, Maui Emergency Management Agency and Ballard Mortuary to assist with the repatriation of remains to the Philippines. Moreover, close to US \$10,000 in additional financial assistance was distributed to over thirty beneficiaries who were affected by the wildfires.

Alongside these special responsibil-

ities and the normal day-to-day duties as Consul General, I attended several community events, including the 21st Bayanihan Gala of the Filipino Community Center on October 14, the Dabawenyos Community Foundation (DCF) 30th Anniversary Gala on Oct. 21 and the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Filipino Business Women's Association (FBWA) on Oct. 28. Congratulations to Lyn Tampion of DCF and Margie Berueda of FBWA for assuming the helm of their respective organizations.

On Nov. 9, I was the guest of business leader Robin Campaniano during the Aloha Beer Co. presents Tulong for Lahaina® Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Hoakalei Country Club. The golf tournament raised over \$40,000 for Binhi at Ani's Tulong for Lahaina® Fund. While our three-

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Consul General Fernandez was the guest of business leader Robin Campaniano (in red shirt) during the Aloha Beer Co. presents Tulong for Lahaina® Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Hoakalei Country Club.

TOP PHOTO: BENJIE ARISTA | BOTTOM PHOTO: ANGIE SANTIAGO





During the Consulates Second Consular and Assistance to Nationals Mission to Lahaina, Salmineo de Castro and Hermongenes Cayabyab evaluate the documents of consular applicants.  
 PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL OF HONOLULU



Consul Grace Bulos and Consular Assistant Brenda Auro encode the data and capture the biometrics of passport applicants.  
 PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL OF HONOLULU



Consul Bulos leads the petitioners who reacquired their Philippine citizenship in the singing of the Philippine national a cappella, their first patriotic act as Filipino dual citizens.  
 PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL OF HONOLULU

some—Robin Campaniano, Nestor Garcia and I—did not place in the top ten, we all had a great time for a very good cause. Thanks to First Hawaiian Bank for sponsoring our team.

As we near the end of 2023, let us keep in mind the myriad of blessings that we should be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving, my dear *kababayans*. 🌟

**Emil T. Fernandez** is the current Consul General of the Philippines stationed in Honolulu. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management Economics. 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), Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations (2008–2009) and Acting Director of the Office of ASEAN Affairs (1999–2001).*

### Let’s Talk Pinoy! | Cont’d from p.13

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 the owner of Maui Balsamic Vinegar and is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is a part of Saladmaster’s Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico.



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# Happy Thanksgiving Day Everyone

Deacon Patrick Constantino

Let us take time off our daily activities, which is Life, and who we are, gifts from God, and give praise and glory to Him this day! Be thankful for being a gift from God because what we make of ourselves is truly our gift to God!

A reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 17: 11–19

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten persons with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master!

Have pity on us!” And when he saw them, he said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Then he said to him, “Stand up and go, your faith has saved you.”

The Gospel of the Lord! Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

In today’s Gospel, Jesus meets ten lepers who call upon him for mercy, for help. They are looking for healing, they are looking for a miracle.



Holy Body of Christ in a Monstrance with the image of our Blessed Mother of God on it!

PHOTO: FR CHRIS ALAR, DIRECTOR OF THE MARIAN COMMUNITY OF THE DIVINE MERCY, CALIF.

And Jesus is merciful; he is a miracle worker and healer, and he grants all ten lepers what they asked for. Like the Lepers, we undoubtedly also turn to Jesus and plead with him to be merciful toward us, to help us with our problems, to heal what is broken in our lives. And we should, for Jesus is indeed merciful, and does want to heal us of our brokenness.

But Jesus is so much more than a miracle worker or problem fixer and offers us something much greater than physical healing; he offers us salvation, eternal life, and joy. Sadly, in today’s Gospel, only one of the ten lepers comes to learn and experience this truth.

Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master,



One of 10 Lepers who came back to Jesus and thanked Him for Healing him! The Leper who came back and pledged his life to Jesus!

IMAGE: WILLIAM HOLE, 1846-1917, ARTIST - LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, [REPRODUCTION NUMBER, E.G., LC-DIG-MATPC-00718]



The Garcia family attends the St Joseph Church Healing Mass.  
PHOTO COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

have pity on us!” When he saw them, he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” On their way they were cured!

Hopefully, the reason we are gathered here today is because we, too, have come to learn and experience the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ. Hopefully, we have come to believe the truth about Jesus Christ: that he is fully human, fully divine, one divine person through whom our human nature has been elevated and thus, saved. And not only did the Lord become incarnate to reconcile us to the Father, he continues to come to us and meet us in the Eucharist. How blessed are we to be so passionately loved by the Lord!

Let us never cease giving thanks and praise to God for all he has done for us! Today is a good day to think about gratitude. Though today is Thanksgiving Day in the United States, many countries set aside a day of Thanksgiving in their national calendars. In current times, it is a secular holiday, but its roots are firmly set in religious traditions. It was always treated as a time to give thanks to God, often in gratitude for a good harvest.

Often our prayers are filled with asking for things—health, healing, success, material goods and even a deepening of our relationship with God and with others. Today might be a great day to focus our prayer on thanking God instead of asking God; to voice our appreciation for all that he provides; to offer gratitude for the gift of our faith; and to be thankful for the presence of his Holy Spirit in our lives.

Surely, the Lepers spent time in prayer thanking God for healing them. Even if only one of them came back to thank Him and give him praise. They were spared and their life continued.

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus saved us from the grip of sin and death—and his words in today’s Gospel are comforting

to the Lepers and to us. For while much tribulation will occur and trials will be undergone, for those who have faith, the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will be visible—and we can stand erect and raise our heads, for we will know our redemption is at hand. For this, we give acknowledgement and thanks in the Eucharist—this perfect thanksgiving.

God gives us life—here, and for eternity. Today, we might embrace a particularly focused attitude of gratefulness to God: For He is the living God, enduring forever; His Kingdom shall not be destroyed and His dominion shall be without end.

For He is the living God, enduring forever; His Kingdom shall not be destroyed.

Jesus, I trust in You! Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! Amen! ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai‘i, after serving 36 years and becoming on June 18, 1987, the first Deacon of Filipino ancestry for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai‘i. For 22 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 62 years. They are blessed with four children, 11 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.





# Chef Joey’s Balai Pata

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

Chef Joey did it again! The beloved Filipino Chef on Maui, Chef Joey opened his third restaurant, this time in Kahului, called *Balai Pata*. (The other two restaurants are Joey’s Kitchen in Kā’anapali and Joey’s Kitchen in Nāpili). “Balai” means house and “Pata” means pork thigh. Therefore Balai Pata literally means “House of Pork Thigh” (think *Crispy Pata*). But the restaurant definitely goes deeper than that. Balai Pata is more than just a restaurant serving delicious Filipino food. To quote Chef Joey, he said. “Food is more than just a source of nutrition. It’s the glue that binds us together to celebrate the Filipino culture and community.” When you come to Balai Pata, you will feel, learn and experience Filipino culture. And yes, a big part of the Filipino culture is delicious food.

## Blessing and Soft Opening

On October 16, Chef Joey and his wife Juvy invited family and friends for the Blessing and Soft Opening of Balai Pata. I am so thankful to have been a part of the celebration. It was also a delight to sample the food. My favorite that night was the *okoy*, *tortang talong* and *halo-halo*. We will talk more about the food later. Before we do that, I would like to mention the ambiance in the restaurant is comforting, heart-warming and a bit nostalgic. The mural painting on the wall with rice terraces, the big wooden spoon, knife and fork decoration, the *walis tingting*—all, will bring back warm memories of the Philippines.

Chef Joey’s involvement with the community is evident by how the Maui community is supporting him on the launch of Balai Pata. There were so many family and friends who showed up and showed support during the blessing.

## Grand Opening, Menu and Location

Balai Pata is located at 425 Koloa St. #104 in the Kahului Triangle Square. This new restaurant opened to the

public on October 26. Currently, it is open for dinner on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. (It is closed on Monday and Tuesday). While there is no official website yet at this time, you may get up to date information on their Instagram Account so follow them at @balaipata on Instagram. In case you are wondering about what Filipino foods are available, go to @balaipata and you will find a post of their current menu.

## Let’s talk about the menu

- There are many Filipino favorite entrées such as the *Nilaga*, *Kare Kare* and the *Crispy Pata*. These comfort foods are sure to please the palate and the tummy. For “small bites” try the venison and shrimp *lumpia*, *okoy*, *sisig* and *adobo*. The menu is divided into the following sections:
- SARAMSAM - ENSALADA (Small Bites - Salad)
  - TINUNO - PINIRITONG (Grilled - Fried)
  - SABAW - GUISADO (Soups - Stews)
  - PANCIT - RAMEN - KANIN (Noodles - Fried Rice)

For dessert, there’s *halo halo* and banana *lumpia*. As I mentioned earlier, the full current menu is available at their @balaipata Instagram page. I think Filipinos will love all the food on the menu. Non-Filipinos might need help or suggestions from the servers because they may not be familiar with the choices. I think it is important for the servers to know how to explain the food to non-Filipinos so they can choose the food that is right for them. There are plenty of options for vegetarians. Balai Pata is evolving. I’m excited for its growth and success. The menu will continue to unfold. The hours of operation will expand. I must say I am truly happy and excited that we have a Joey Macadangdang restaurant that is in Central Maui (closer to where I live in Kihei). It is also close to the airport so I anticipate many visitors trying this place as well. Have you been to Balai Pata yet?

*“Balai Pata is evolving. I’m excited for its growth and success. The menu will continue to unfold.”*

– LIZA PIERCE



Liza and Chef Joey Macadangdang shared a photo during Balai Pata’s soft opening.

PHOTO RIGHT: Chef Joey’s tasty *Kare Kare*; oxtail stewed in peanut sauce with a side of shrimp *aramang bagoong*.”



Garlic *malunggay* noodles with garlic soy butter is on the menu at Balai Pata.



Have you ever had *halo-halo* served in a coconut shell?



PHOTO LEFT: Liza (from right) and Judy—a special server—are shown here during Balai Pata’s soft opening.

If not, what are you waiting for? Go!  **Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend... and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Digital

Media Specialist with Hawai’i Life Real Estate Brokers. She is the author of the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.







Ernie Costello

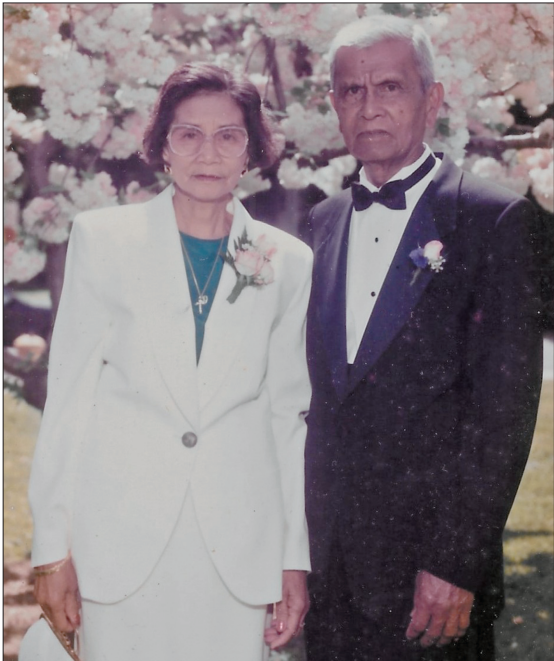


PHOTO CENTER:  
Anacleto  
Costello

PHOTO RIGHT:  
Anacleto & Nena  
Costello at Ernie  
& Laurie's  
Wedding

The *Sakada* parents' influence is the basis of this month's *Sakada Offspring* and his children, their brighter future and successful lives.

Ernielito "Ernie" Deguzman Costello was born in Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i in October 1968. He attended Makawao Elementary School and Maui High School. In 1990, he graduated from the Eberhardt School of Business at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, concentrating in Finance.

Most of his professional career has been in the healthcare space. His experience ranged from small medical device start-up companies to large multi-national corporations. He is currently an Executive District Business Manager for Mead Johnson Nutrition. He leads a specialty sales team responsible for the Mountain West region of the United States. Prior experience includes Vice President, Director and senior leadership roles at companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Abbott and Sanofi. He is fortunate and immensely proud to have been involved in two start up medical device companies leading to both having successful IPOs.

Laurie Ann Costello, Ernie's wife, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of the Pacific and a Master's degree in Behavioral Analysis from National University. She is a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst and works at ABS Kids in Salt Lake City where she leads a team of Behavioral Therapists working with children with autism spectrum disorders.

The Costello's have two children, Kyle Matthew Costello and Maile Nichole Costello.

Kyle Matthew has a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from Occidental College and is currently work-

# Ernielito "Ernie" Deguzman Costello

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY DEGUZMAN COSTELLO 'OHANA

ing as an Operations Manager at Stanford School of Law in Palo Alto, California. He is currently considering his options to pursue a graduate degree in Business Administration or Higher Education.

Maile Nichole has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Redlands and is currently working as a social worker with Insights Young Parent Services in Portland, Oregon. After gaining additional experience, she plans to attend graduate school to get her Master of Social Work.

Ernie received numerous awards in his career for sales achievement and leadership. He is proud but humble in receiving these awards and achievements.

Laurie and Ernie participated in all aspects of the community they live in where they raised their children in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since moving to Salt Lake City five years ago, they have slowly integrated into their new surroundings according to Ernie. They are parishioners of Saint Ambrose Catholic Church and are involved with service organizations such as the Utah Food Bank, the Utah Special Olympics, Autism Awareness and Teen Suicide Prevention.

Ernie and Laurie are both avid tennis players and regularly play competitively on the local tennis leagues for the United States Tennis Association. They both enjoy cooking for family and friends. They enjoy traveling and they hope to do more trips in the near future.

Ernie's *Sakada* connection is with his late father, Anacleto Costello who

at the early age of fifteen came to work in the sugar cane and pineapple plantations of Hawai'i. He was born in Dinalawan, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines in October 1912. Anacleto Costello arrived in Hilo, Hawai'i in 1927. He was sponsored by the long gone O'okala Sugar Plantation. He decided to come to Hawai'i to find a better life, to earn money, and for adventure. He did not stay at the O'okala Plantation very long because of the influence and encouragement of his friends and relatives who were living on Maui, so he joined them on Maui.

Upon arriving on Maui, Anacleto was hired at the Maui Pine Plantation earning \$2 a day working as a water boy. As a water boy, he was responsible for distributing water to the workers to drink as they worked under the scorching Maui sun. Anacleto was such a good worker, he didn't mind working as a water boy. He also boxed pineapples.

In 1939, Anacleto decided to go to the Philippines to get married. He was married to the late Eusebia Vilorio. They had two children, a son and a daughter. He did not come back to Hawai'i until 1946 when the influx of *Sakadas* (about 6,000) men were recruited to come and work at the sugar and pineapple plantations. Anacleto decided to sign up again to return to Hawai'i. He and the other *Sakadas* left the Philippines from Port Salomague in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur aboard the *S.S. Maunawili*. They landed at the Kahului Harbor after dropping some men off on Hawai'i island. Anacleto and some of the men lived at the

Haleakalā Camp located between Pukalani and Makawao. Haleakalā Camp is now a developed subdivision. Most of them worked at the Maui Pine Company. Besides doing other jobs at Maui Pine, Anacleto worked as a truck driver until his retirement in 1974.

In 1963, Anacleto's life was a combination of happy and sad. It was sad because his oldest son died in the Philippines. While he was there for his son's funeral, he met a beautiful young lady by the name of Nena Deguzman from Santa Ignacia, Tarlac, Philippines. It was love at first sight! They had a long-distance courtship because Anacleto had to come back to Hawai'i to work. Nena's father gave his blessings to Anacleto to marry his daughter. In May 1967, Anacleto went back to the Philippines and married Nena. On November 14, 1967, Nena arrived in Hawai'i to join Anacleto. Nena was an incredibly talented seamstress. She could sew simple dresses as well as elaborate terna gowns. She was able to make her own patterns too.

On October 17, 1968, Anacleto and Nena were blessed with a son, which was Ernielito "Ernie" Costello.

Ernie shared his personal reflection on his mom and dad: *With the recent passing of my mom, I have been doing a lot of reflecting on the incredible life of my mom and dad. Like all the Sakada families, my parents were focused on building a better life for themselves and their families. That life was full of hard work and sacrifices. It was also a life filled with the richness of family, community, spirituality, and happiness. I believe they achieved their goals by setting me up and my family for a brighter future and ultimately establishing an example and standard for future generations to follow. While I have lived away from Maui for all my adult life, I have great satisfaction in knowing that my children have spent a lot of time with their grandparents over*

## Google® Is Not Everything... | Cont'd from p.12

Bringing a community together through stories and keeping everyone safe in an unlikely way is something you see a lot of in our Filipino culture. ✨

**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 **Jhanessty Vaye Bautista**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is President of Maui High's Key Club, Vice-President of Maui High's Fil-

ipino Cultural Club, Executive Secretary of Maui High's Student Government, a member of Blue Thunder, Maui High's Robotics club, and a member of the National Honor Society. Jhanessty is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, focusing on graphic design and entrepreneurship. In her free time,

she reads books of any and all genres, sketches out designs for her new graphics project, sings karaoke alone or with a group of her close family and friends and loves anything with the popular videogame's Minecraft Bee. She is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista.







PHOTO ABOVE: Anacleto & Nena Costello

PHOTO LEFT: Ernie & Laurie at Snowbird, UT



PHOTO CENTER: Kyle and Maile at Maile's College Graduation

the years. I know that my parents' influence has helped shape who they are as young adults and that they will continue to honor their grandparents in all the things they hope to accomplish in their personal and professional lives. My parents leave an incredible legacy and I am

forever grateful for their love, guidance, support and sacrifice.

✱ **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.



Binhi at Ani past president Nora Cabanilla-Takushi and president Melen Agcolicol pass out the adobo donated by Elena's Home of Finest Filipino Food.  
PHOTO: ANGIE SANTIAGO



Binhi at Ani's Maui delegation during the dinner.  
PHOTO: BENJIE ARISTA



Keone Villafior and Nora Cabanilla-Takushi.  
PHOTO COURTESY KEONE VILLAFIOR

## Survivors ...

from p. 9

net of 58.16; Laborers Union Local 368 (Ryan Yoshida, Darren Lee and Isaiah Ganaban) with a net of 58.18; Mutual Underwriters (Rito Saniatan, Eri Shima and David Abe) with a net of 58.84; Triple A Electric (Dennis Pentecostes, B.J. Talaro and Darnell Andres) with a net of 59.45; Aloha Beer Co. (Mike Aranoff, Steve Dyer and A.B. Eugenio) with a net of 59.54; Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 293 (Royd Gano, Alan Bonsilao and Marscel Lopez) with a net of 60.18; Aloha Dental Laboratory, Inc. (Edgar Quides, Amy Quides and Ben Aquino) with a net of 60.82; and OC-CPA LLC (Tony Jang, Chris Oshima and Creighton Aotani) with a net of 61.54.

Organizers and Binhi at Ani deemed the outing a success. "In a period of two months, we rolled our

sleeves together to produce a very successful golf tournament," said Abinsay. "Beyond the inner satisfaction derived by both the volunteers and golf enthusiasts' participation in such a noble effort to help, it also served as a testimony of the many ways of extending tulong when it is most needed. We hope everyone will continue to assist in more activities in the future to raise funds to benefit Lahaina fire survivors. I extend my appreciation to everyone for their participation and I personally feel it was an involvement worthy of undertaking with the mindset to extend tulong when it is most needed."

"I am informed the preliminary numbers indicate we raised over forty thousand dollars," said Agcolicol, "which will allow us to proceed with our next distribution in early December."

At the end of the tournament, Steven Sombrero reminded the golfers that although it was a fun tournament, not to forget the participants

were there to help the Lahaina fire survivors. Sombrero's message was an apt reminder to those who did not live on Maui that the damage and pain of the Lahaina fire survivors was continuing and would continue for years on end.

This same sentiment was felt by many who attended the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs convention. One of Cabanilla-Takushi's friends from Kauai, Keone Villafior, posted on his Facebook page his reaction to Cabanilla-Takushi's remarks:

"A resident of Lahaina, Nora was given the opportunity to share her story with the wildfire. Relating her family's experiences, she had most of the delegates teary eyed and speechless. Her story, like the other survivors, was filled with horror, helplessness and heroism. They live their daily lives in a daze with the memories of that fateful day and in uncertainty of their future. On behalf of all who survived, she asked for our continued prayers

and for continued financial donations."

**Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista** is the Legal Counsel of Binhi at Ani. Many of his clients from Lahaina lost their homes because of the Lahaina fire.

The day after the Aloha Beer Co. presents Tulong for Lahaina® Fundraising Golf Tournament, Evangelista graciously received a donation to the Tulong for Lahaina Fund® from the Philippine Cultural Foundation, represented by Treasurer Lydia Kamiya, Vice President William Cudal and President Emeritus Maggie Pasion Domingo.







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