



Philippine President Visits Hawai'i

See below



Chef Joey lauded for Bayanihan Spirit

See below



Reason for the Season

Our Editor encourages us that it is a season for healing and strength.

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FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

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inside



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Miss Maui Filipina would like our help, giving help.

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Chef Joey Macadangdang Awarded Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

On the evening of August 8, 2023, Chef Virgilio "Joey" Macadangdang and his wife Juvs finally pulled into the darkened parking lot fronting their Joey's Kitchen-Nāpili restaurant. Power had been out for most of the day and the evening brought the smells of the burn drifting to their location.

"Once we got to the Nāpili restaurant with my brother and my wife, there were a lot of people in the parking lot. And our employees were already waiting for us at the restaurant because they knew we were going to be there," Macadangdang said. "So I told my brother, 'fire it up.' Without hesitation, I took my

see CHEF JOEY next page



Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit in our darkest time following the August 8 wildfires on Maui, Chef Joey Macadangdang steps up to the plate and meets the need of many displaced victims of the tragedy.

PHOTO: KELSEY HEROLD

FREE



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Visits Hawai'i

By Consul General Emil T. Fernandez

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PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

Chef Joey ...

from p. 1

van and parked it facing the restaurant with the headlights on. That was the only lights we had plus one flashlight.”

Macadangdang and his employees—many of whom would later find out they lost their homes—began to cook to feed the people who were gathered in the Nāpili Plaza parking lot. “We began cooking—me and my brother. We cooked everything we could and started inviting the people outside in the parking lot to eat,” said Macadangdang. “So everybody came to eat—people we didn’t know.”

With a wry grin, Macadangdang recalled, “Some tourists—they never ate fish head before—but they were hungry and they started digging in. That’s how we started.”

Over the next couple of hours and then over the following days, Macadangdang and his team would continue cooking and serving food to survivors who came by.

Three months later he would be on stage in Central Maui.

“Thank you for this honor but I didn’t do it alone. I owe it to my employees and especially my wife—the love of my life—who is the driving force. Without her, this would not have happened,” said a choked-up Chef Joey Macadangdang moments after being awarded with the inaugural Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit Award.

The Binhi at Ani Board of Directors created the “Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit Award” to celebrate and recog-



Chef Joey Macadangdang is choked up while speaking.  
PHOTO: KELSEY HEROLD

nize annually a Maui County resident who epitomizes Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit (community cooperation and unity), which is the motto of Binhi at Ani.

“It was a really easy choice to honor Chef Joey Macadangdang,” Melen Agcolicol, Binhi at Ani President, observed. “Despite personally experiencing the tragedy and challenges from the fire that ravaged his hometown of Lahaina, including being unable to stay at his residence and living for a time at his Nāpili Plaza location and his van, suffering financially from the closure of his restaurants and concerned about the fire impacts on many of his employees, Chef Joey and his wife Juvs volunteered their Nāpili restaurant as a gathering place and hub.” Macadangdang’s family and employees served free meals to their fellow residents and tourists during the aftermath of the fire that isolated

West Maui residents and cut-off power from most homes and businesses. He continued this service from August through the Thanksgiving holiday. “That is what the Bayanihan Spirit is all about and Binhi at Ani is proud to present Chef Joey with the inaugural award,” Agcolicol concluded.

Newly appointed Central Maui State Senator Troy Hashimoto presented Chef Joey with a Certificate from the Legislature and noted, “This is a well-deserved recognition. You did so much. You stepped into action. You represent the Bayanihan spirit. People will have very big shoes to follow.”

Immediately prior to the presentation, Binhi at Ani past president Nora Cabanilla-Takushi—a Lahaina fire survivor—recounted her family’s own harrowing experience. Cabanilla-Takushi, who is neighbors with Macadangdang, highlighted the difficulty during that chaotic day and



Chef Joey Macadangdang and his wife Juvs.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA


evening in keeping track of her family, driving to the beach, designated shelter locales, and later to Nāpili to find safety. Approximately forty Lahaina fire survivors attended A Bayanihan Christmas, many of whom were parishioners of Maria Lanakila Catholic Church which miraculously survived the fire.

Cabanilla-Takushi detailed how Chef Joey took action. Taking the stage, Macadangdang was visibly emotional. Cabanilla-Takushi’s personal story reminded him of what he and his fellow Lahaina residents went through that night and the days afterwards—with fires surrounding them, homes damaged and destroyed, electricity and cell phone service unavailable for days.

Macadangdang, known for his humbleness and generosity, has had a

see CHEF JOEY p.6

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. undertook the final leg of his trip to the United States of America last month with a working visit to Honolulu, Hawaii last November 18 and 19.

Upon arrival at the Hickam Air Force Base, the President was warmly welcomed at the airport by leading officials including Hawaii Governor Josh Green, U.S. Representative Ed Case, U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, State of Hawaii Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations Jade Butay, U.S. Ambassador MaryKay Carlson and Consul General Emil Fernandez.

Consul General Fernandez greets President Marcos Jr. upon arrival at the Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu. (Photo courtesy of the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu)

From the airport, the President proceeded directly to the Hawaii Convention Center, where he met with members of the thriving Filipino community in the State, which has the second most populous Filipino-American population after California. He outlined various government programs and initiatives under his administration's 'Bagong Pilipinas' brand of governance and expressed his gratitude for their valuable economic contributions through remittances, especially during the economic slump caused by the pandemic.

President Marcos Jr. waves to the crowd during the gathering with members of the Filipino community of Hawaii at the Hawaii Convention Center. (PPA pool photos by Marianne Bermudez)

"I have waited a very long time to say, 'Aloha!' The Filipinos and the Filipino-Americans in Hawaii hold a very special place in my heart for all the wonderful experiences we had here with our Filipino compatriots," said the President as he expressed his profound gratitude to the Filipino community in Hawaii which embraced him and his family after they were forced to flee the Philippines following the political unrest in February 1986.

During the gathering, the President recounted his memories of when they arrived in Hawaii and the warm welcome they received from the Filipino community. "These are the people who kept us alive for six years. We landed here in Honolulu with nothing. My family was flown from Malacañan Palace to Hickam Air Force Base and when we finally moved to Makiki Heights we had nothing with us, they kept everything to inspect everything. These were the people who kept body and soul together of the Marcos family," he remarked, recalling the moments when they arrived at the Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu.

He also acknowledged those in the audience who became close to them, including the security members of the Presidential Security Command (PSC), the predecessor of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), who remained loyal to the Marcos family.

Moreover, President Marcos Jr. offered a prayer and a moment of silence for the victims of the Maui wildfires that occurred last August, claiming the lives of 26 Filipino and Filipino-Americans and impacted many more.



Continuing with his remarks, the Chief Executive referred to the gathering as a celebration of the strong connection between the Philippines and Hawaii. He also emphasized the significant role of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the economy and vibrant history of Hawaii, which have continued to flourish in various industries since the arrival of the first fifteen Filipino immigrants, known as Sakadas in 1906 to work in plantations and fight alongside Americans during the

war.

"Today, we see highly successful second and third generation Filipinos, as well as present-day migrants, who are an indelible part of society. Because of you, the Philippines enjoys a very positive image in Hawaii. Thank you for all that you do for our country," he said.

The President also extended his deepest appreciation for garnering eighty-three percent of the total votes

see MARCOS, JR. next page





## Mahalo for Community



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To our many community partners, thank you for your collaborative spirit and steadfast aloha.

Mahalo for Community. Mahalo for You.



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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



## Christmas Celebration ... Birth of a Savior

What a year it has been for many of our Maui families, friends and neighbors. Devastation caused by wildfires, losing a loved one, losing a home, financial difficulties, broken relationships and much more. Suffering and uncertainties about the future are too much to bear for our families. Many are grieving and hurting because of these circumstances. These are just a few of the challenges that many of our 'ohana are facing today. And it appears there is no hope or an end in sight.

In light of the situations and sufferings you were in yesterday and still ongoing today, there is hope and joy awaiting you in the midst of your difficulties. The month of December is a time to celebrate the birth of our Savior—Jesus Christ. Yes, it is Christmas and is more than a Christian holi-

day. It is more than an occasion to decorate our homes and exchange gifts. It is an opportunity to praise and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Christ our Savior and friend.

Let us remember true joy is not found in giving expensive material gifts during this holiday season. The greatest gifts that we can give during the Christmas holiday are genuine love, grace, compassion, patience, kindness, a word of encouragement and a helping hand to those people around us in need of a shoulder to cry on or a hug. What better time than the season of joy to make connection with those we think about a lot, to enjoy together a theater production, a concert of uplifting music, a walk on a favorite beach, a quiet moment in the woods? These special connections give us energy, strength and resilience and some-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Salutes with Admiral John Aquilino.  
PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

## Marcos, Jr. ...

from p. 3

in Hawaii during the 2022 overseas voting exercise.

“Even from the time of my father, you have been by our side in our quest to serve the country. From the bottom of my heart, I must say that I thank you for trusting me, for believing in this leadership. In return, I and my administration will be hard at work and have been hard at work from day one, to ensure that we accomplish all that we have set out to do,” Marcos Jr. said.

President Marcos Jr. highlighted the outcomes of his participation in the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco, California and announced positive economic growth. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased to 7.6 percent in 2022 and grew by 5.3 percent in the first half of 2023, surpassing projections. Employment and jobs are at historic highs with tourism, investment registration and manufacturing activity contributing significantly to GDP at 18.7 percent in 2022.

“So, I ask all of you, continue to be supportive of your government and of the Philippines. You have worked hard to build your lives here. You are the glue that holds us together. Let us keep traffic bustling between our two homes. Let us continue working together towards building a stronger Philippine Repub-

lic. I count on your support,” Marcos Jr. urged, concluding his message.

The President continued his working visit the following day with an engagement at the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), where he met with US security-related officials, led by Admiral John Aquilino, USINDOPACOM Commander.

President Marcos Jr. and Admiral Aquilino during the arrival honors at USINDOPACOM. (Photo courtesy of USINDOPACOM)

The USINDOPACOM is the oldest and largest combatant command of the US, with over 380,000 personnel, including soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians, coast guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians. The Command oversees all US military activities in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes thirty-six nations, fourteen time zones and more than 50 percent of the global population.

The Chief Executive also took time from his schedule to lay a wreath at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor to honor the fallen service members from the attack on December 7, 1941. The Memorial is situated above the sunken remains of the USS Arizona battleship, which sank during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

President Marcos Jr. laid a wreath at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor to pay respects to fallen service members from the December 7,

see MARCOS, JR. p.9



President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. visited the Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.  
PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL



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# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## Heroes, Revolutionaries and Settlers

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran | PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

I am not loving Chip Zdarsky’s Batman run. Frank Miller’s dark, dour, older world-weary Dark Knight is my guy. Do not get me wrong, I appreciate the cinematic storytelling quality of Jeph Loeb and Jim Lee’s Hush pieces and Loeb and Tim Sale’s young Batman Holiday crime saga. I suppose my reaction to the various incarnations of the Caped Crusader colors how I view “heroes.”

I imagine many Filipino diaspora communities annually mark the end of the year by remembering Dr. Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines. Maui community leaders installed a bust of Rizal at the Filipino section of Kepaniwai Park’s heritage area decades ago. The Maui Filipino Community Council usually holds a gathering near the anniversary of his execution by the Spanish authorities on December 30th.

Rizal is often described as a renaissance man, a poet and novelist, and a tragic figure of lost unrequited love. Perhaps something got lost in translation but I could not get through his famous novel *Noli Me Tángere*.

Suffice to say while I appreciate the myth constructed around the educated scion of the Filipino native aristocracy as a symbol of popular resistance to Spanish colonial restrictions—I have always been drawn to the rougher figures in the Philippine revolution. Frank Miller could do more with the likes of Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo.

The uneducated Bonifacio founded the nationalist Katipunan society. While Rizal supported reforms, Bonifacio wanted full independence and sparked the August 1896 revolt against the Spaniards. Ironically, the Spanish authorities arrested reform advocate Rizal. They argued Rizal’s writings inspired the revolution. The colonial government eventually shot Rizal by firing squad.

Of course, my preference for the warriors recognizes neither Bonifacio nor Aguinaldo were the William Wallaces of the Philippines. No one argues Bonifacio was a very successful military leader—no Stirling Bridge for him. Eventually Aguinaldo, one of his underlings, would have Bonifacio arrested and executed.

With the United States of America taking on Spain, Aguinaldo and other Filipino rebels thought independence was within reach. While the Americans debated annexation of Spanish territories seized during the Spanish-American War, the Filipino rebels declared independence and Aguinaldo was declared the first President of the Philippine Republic. The American authorities, however, decided their little brown brothers required and deserved some good old fashioned Yankee guidance. It was the Americans who introduced the concept of martial law to the archipelago. Aguinaldo and the Filipino rebels would fight the Americans.

They lost.



Young Filipino cane worker stands in young sugar cane adjoins a Maui plantation camp.



Lino Agaran, Manuel Coloma and Lydia Coloma circa 1975 in their Kahului home.

Aguinaldo would swear an oath of allegiance to the United States, retiring to private life with a U.S. government pension.

He would later return to public service by collaborating with the Japanese occupation during World War II. While arrested after the

American victory for his wartime activities, he was not shot. After independence, Philippine President Elpidio Quirino would appoint him to the Council of State and Aguinaldo reputedly would work for better Filipino-American ties.

see IDENTITY IN CRISIS p.7



## A BIG MAHALO

TO OUR MAUI HEALTH ‘OHANA

Maui Health is honored to care for the health and well-being of our communities on Maui and Lāna‘i. We are grateful for our team and their dedication to our mission of providing exceptional health care for the people we serve with compassion, dignity, and respect. As we close out 2023, we want to recognize and thank some of this year’s outstanding employees.

### 2023 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

 Keesha Magarin MMMC, January	 Christy Haskins MMMC, January	 Joana Ped MMMC, February	 Julie Ann Tacardon MMMC, February	 Stacy Fujiwara Kula, February	 Pritsana Heisler Lanai, 1st Quarter
 Melissa Mauiola Kula, June	 Lianne Kele-Ponce Kula, June	 Michael Ilustrado Lanai, 2nd Quarter	 Norleen Fernandez Kula, August	 Remedios Bala MMMC, September	 Marithel Versola MMMC, September
 Charmaine Oliveros MMMC, October	 Candice Dela Cruz MMMC, October	 Gigi Keys MMMC, November	 Devin Doss MMMC, November		

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Binhi at Ani Past President Nora Cabanilla-Takushi shares her family's challenges.  
PHOTO: KELSEY HEROLD

## Chef Joey ...

from p. 2

remarkable climb up the culinary ladder. Born in the Province of Ilocos Norte, at thirteen years old, he and his family moved to Maui, where his father labored for Maui Land & Pineapple Co. Macadangdang began working as a newspaper boy and received his first break as a busboy/dishwasher at Eric's Seafood Grotto. He became interested in cooking and by the time he was in his mid-twenties, Macadangdang had risen to Executive Chef of Blue Tropix Restaurant & Night Club in Lahaina.

Later, he became the Executive Chef at The Rusty Harpoon. In 1992, Macadangdang joined the Yamaguchi Group and earned the position of Cor-

porate Executive Chef at Roy's and opened Roy's Kihei in 2001. In 2005, Macadangdang joined Pineapple Grill and created the "Cuisine of the Pacific Ocean." In 2006, he rejoined the Yamaguchi Group as Corporate Executive Chef of the Maui restaurants.

In March 2015, Macadangdang ventured on his own and opened Joey's Kitchen in the Whaler's Village, followed by Joey's Kitchen - Nāpili in 2016, Macadangdang in 2021 and Balai Pata (his first Central Maui joint) in October 2023.

The past few years have not been easy for those in the restaurant business. The pandemic forced Joey's Kitchen in Whaler's Village to temporarily close. The pandemic delayed the opening of the Macadangdang Restaurant at the Fairway Shops and the Lahaina fire eventually caused it to



Lahaina fire.  
PHOTO COURTESY KAI PELAYO

close permanently.

"With the August 8th fires, we had to pivot. Our business went from caring for diners to caring for our team and community. We are heartbroken that many of our team members were negatively impacted by this tragedy," Macadangdang recently posted on social media. "We have reached a difficult decision. A decision that we did not see coming before the fires and the drastic downturn of the economy here in West Maui. It is with a heavy heart that we indefinitely need to

close Macadangdang. The uncertainty of the future restaurant industry in West Maui has put us in a position we cannot sustain."

Despite his own personal and business challenges, Macadangdang—without any remuneration—sacrificed for the good of the community. And his efforts did not go unnoticed in the national media, including the Washington Post which described how after a day of cooking for hundreds,

see CHEF JOEY p.8



**Balai Pata by Joey's Kitchen**  
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Joey's Kitchen employees assist.  
PHOTO COURTESY JOEY'S KITCHEN NĀPILI

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

times provide the ideal perspective to keep us moving forward.

Another important gift to someone we love or to a stranger is to share a meal, especially with those who may be alone during this holiday season. Loneliness is the hardest challenge to endure, especially during the holidays. We can all make an extra effort to include more folks into our circles, to make extraordinary effort to invite the many who are in a state of sadness, who are missing loved ones or wishing they could visit a special someone who is far away, or going through hard times, and who gave us some comfort and care at some earlier time in our friendship.

Most of all, let us celebrate this season of great joy. It is a time of our God showing His real love for

us. It is a time of healing and renewed strength. Let us remember the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift—the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, who has shown us how to strive to be a light and the salt of the world.

From our family to yours, we wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year! May you all experience the amazing love and blessings from our Almighty Father during this holiday season.

*Maligayang Pasko Sa Inyong Lahat! Naimbag a Paskua! Mele Kalikimaka! ✨*

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

# Identity in crisis ...

from p. 5

In college, during a seminar on Modern Southeast Asian History, we had a lively debate on whether the martyred Rizal simply made a more palatable national “hero” to both the new Yankee colonial overlords and the local oligarchy that would run the American commonwealth. The failed nationalists Bonifacio and Aguinaldo did not fit into the narrative of a more benevolent American empire.

But I still think Aguinaldo’s saga would make a better graphic novel.

I hail from the tail-end of Maui’s sugar era. Plantation days weren’t all reservoir swimming and tilapia fishing or tounahauler inner tubes as local kid trampolines. My parents went to bed early and awoke before dawn (my mom still does). Red HC&S pickups would fetch the *hanawai* gang from our Kahului neighborhoods for the drive to the assigned fields. My heroes did not wear *palaka*. They wore dusty cotton work shirts and floppy hats to shield them from the hot sun in the fields. Just looking at my dad when he came home, I had no doubt he led a hard, dusty life—but there was also dignity in his face and the face of his co-workers. It was also a life that some in my generation chose for themselves, following in their parents’ and grandparents’ footsteps. But I understand why my dad and other sugar workers wanted their



Founders of the Badoc-Pinili association on Maui.

children to have other choices about our futures.

The Agaran *Sakadas* came to Hawai’i when sugar still ruled. Lino and his cousin Teodor (“Doro”) arrived on Maui on April 5, 1928 while brother Juan (“Uncle Johnny”) land-

ed on Hawai’i island in November 1929. Uncle Toribio came earlier to either Kaua’i or Lāna’i. The dates and places differ depending on which of the cousins tells the story. All four are gone now. In our family folklore, my dad Manuel Coloma arrives in 1946, recruited as an Ilocano strikebreaker. As remembered, he signed an ILWU card on the boat, joining strikers upon disembarking at the port. That strike won; dad worked the Maui sugar fields spreading out from Pā’ia town’s edge as an irrigator for nearly forty years.

A proverbial Ilocano—a stoic, frugal, careful man—he married Lydia Agaran, a woman from his old *ili*. A soft-spoken father, he stepped in only when my exasperated mother was *pau* with my sister Velma or me. We lived at various camps but the clean, plain cabin in Orpheum Camp near Pā’ia Mill stands out most in my memory, even more than the little tract house they purchased in Kahului’s Twelfth Increment in the early ’70s.

After the war, my Papa Lino moved to O’ahu. He adopted and raised me. When he retired in 1967, my grandmother, Papa and I moved back to Pā’ia. In those days, there were no Filipino caterers, so Papa was invited to parties because he could cook for large groups. He fried pork chunks dipped in flour and scrambled eggs with a sweet-sour sauce for dipping, *pancit* the Ilocano way, a dry but tasty *dinardaraan*, pork and peas or pimentos, pork *adobo*, lightly fried chicken and chicken long rice.

At gatherings at the Pā’ia Club or Pu’unēnē Filipino Club House or the Baldwin Park pavilions, he would launch into those formal Filipino tarantellas inspired by some kind of Spanish flamenco. In my child’s eye, I still picture the steps and the arm

movements as he swirled across the floor with various partners.

Throughout my life, Maui’s countryside shifted away from sugar (and pineapple). Family-owned independent pineapple fields and pastures in Ha’ikū subdivided into two-acre Gentlemen farms. That familiar experience where you and your high school pals would spend summer months making some real money at the Cannery or in the fields is no longer common. At one time, Pā’ia and Pu’unēnē—with their smoking sugar factories—were among Maui’s largest company towns.

But while I was away at college, Pu’unēnē town disappeared into Central Maui sugar fields and big box parking lots. In 1999, Lahaina’s Pioneer Mill shut down like the rest of Amfac’s agricultural operations throughout the islands, and Maui Land & Pineapple ended active pineapple operations. Pā’ia converted to windsurfing hostels and vacation rentals, fashion shops, Mana Foods and quaint eateries. Pā’ia Mill stands dead on Baldwin Avenue. The camps are largely gone or redeveloped. South Maui and West Maui Beaches we frequented and camped on small kid time are now blocked off by hotels and condos. And in 2016, Pu’unēnē Mill closed and HC&S ended sugar cultivation.

I am old enough to recognize Filipinos and the Filipino community throughout my life sometimes seem outside the mainstream. Our role remains perhaps as cheap labor for the Visitor Industry’s back of the house just as the *Sakada* generation provided the field workforce for the plantations, or filling food and other service jobs that aren’t viewed as living wage careers.

I guess American pop culture shapes my attitude. But I will attend  
**see IDENTITY IN CRISIS next page**



Graphic novelist writer and artist Frank Miller re-introduced a darker version of Batman for more mature readers in his influential mini-series Batman: The Dark Knight. ♦ The graphic novel team of Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale wrote two long mini-series - The Long Halloween and Dark Victory - that influenced Batman adaptations in film and animation.



Cherry Respicio-Urias and husband Frank Urias help.  
PHOTO COURTESY JOEY’S KITCHEN NĀPILI



Chef Joey in action.  
PHOTO COURTESY JOEY’S KITCHEN NĀPILI

## Chef Joey ...

from p. 6

Macadangdang would sleep in his van with the door open to allow for a breeze while his wife slept on a cot in the restaurant.

With many of their employees losing their homes, the Macadangdangs created GoFundMe accounts to assist their employees and the community responded not only financially but also

by helping pass out food during Thanksgiving.

Lorie Walsh and her friends were on Maui and decided to help the Macadangdangs. Later, she posted her thoughts on Facebook: “First off, I have to say I may have never met more humble loving, caring, giving and selfless people and business owners in my entire life. It was a pleasure and an honor to work beside these people and to hear their amazing stories of what it was like the night of

the Lahaina fires, the twenty-one days after and the continued days since. Joey and Juvie (Auntie) his wife have taken care of their employees, their families, their renters and their community. They are not rich but they have given everything they have and people know what amazing people they are, so they have donated food to the restaurant and Chef Joey has cooked it up and fed whoever has needed fed. When Feed America wanted to take over his kitchen, he said, ‘I

will take care of my people. You can give me the food and I will cook it.’ They refused. he cooked anyway. This is what we wanted to do, we wanted to help people who had no agenda other than to help their people. We helped pack and pass out meals out of their restaurant. Joey and their staff took over six hundred meals to displaced family camps in Maui. When I say Joey and Auntie are he-

see CHEF JOEY p.13

## Identity in crisis ...

from p. 7

the annual Rizal Day event if one is held. In the aftermath of the August 8th fire that destroyed Lahaina and killed nearly a hundred local residents, any holiday celebration will be colored by that event.

I have said Filipinos have a reputation as a very optimistic people. Filipinos are a resilient people, full of hope and full of laughter even in the face of adversity. One travel book actually states even though there are over seventy major dialects spoken in the Philippines, not one of those dialects includes words for “depression” or “anxiety” or “anguish” or “boredom.” It is an exaggeration but Filipinos do try to see the silver linings in every cloud that comes by in our lives.

This fire is a big test of that lore. Many local Filipinos can trace our family lines to grandparents or great grandparents who were *Sakadas*. After the immigration reforms of the 1960s, more *kababayan* have come to Hawai‘i as part of family reunification but without direct connection

with the jobs that drew the farm laborers who helped build modern Hawai‘i. The Lahaina community of Filipinos reflected a mixture of retired plantation laborers, visitor industry and health care workers, teachers, small business owners and professionals.

While a Rizal Day event remembers our roots, this year should celebrate the beauty of our people, commemorate what we have now, and share our culture with our neighbors in Hawai‘i.

At what point are Filipinos not just derisively described as settlers but recognized as equal and permanent residents of this community? Is hula a talent in a scholarship pageant but perhaps a Visayan folk dance is not as valued? And does that unspoken question about the *alien-ness* underlie an uncomfortable suspicion some will view Filipinos as akin to tourists here no matter how many generations have been born and died here—like the suggestion on social media during the pandemic that if the hotels, like the plantations, fade away, so will the Filipinos, who can just go back to the Philippines.

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

A paucity of role models remains true in most workplaces. Tons of Filipino workers but few managers, or executives. You see more *Pinoy* nurses than doctors. There remain few *kababayan* examples in established businesses, financial institutions, law firms or academia. Admittedly, quite a number of local leaders might be part-Filipino but have outlooks reflecting their mixed-heritage in relating to the diaspora community. As a local-born Filipino, I plead guilty I lean decidedly American even though I am Full-Blooded Ilocano (FBI).

Filipinos sometimes act

like we are just visiting these islands. It’s a stop before moving on to Las Vegas or California or the Pacific Northwest for other opportunities. We, as Filipinos, have been strangers in Hawai‘i.

But for generations of us now, it has become home. But Filipinos are often missing in action when it comes to making their voices heard on the important challenges facing our community. Given the significant impacts the fires had on the Filipino community—few of us have no connection to a victim or survivor of that tragedy or the certain transformation happening all around us—I would suggest we should not be afraid of making our voices and concerns heard. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku. He worked under the first Governor of Filipino ancestry in the United States, Benjamin J. Cayetano (D-Hawai‘i), for eight years. He later served in the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives for four years and the Hawai‘i State Senate for eleven years.





PHOTOS COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL



## Marcos, Jr. ...

from p. 3

1941 attack.

During the attack, the Philippines was a Territory of the United States, and a significant number of Filipinos served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Army and Navy. Moreover, numerous Filipinos were assigned to different ships and military installations at Pearl Harbor.

The attack on Pearl Harbor resulted in an overall death toll of 2,403, including sixty-eight civilians and 2,335 military personnel. This figure includes individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds, among them Filipinos.

The USS Arizona Memorial is part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which encompasses several historical sites related to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Capping off his three-city Working Visit to the United States, President Marcos Jr. graced the Daniel K. Inouye Speaker Series dubbed “Perspectives on a Secure, Stable and Prosperous Indo-Pacific,” hosted by the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Waikiki, Honolulu.

President Marcos Jr. and Admiral (Ret.) Pete Gumataotao, Director of the DKI-APCSS, engage in conversation following the President’s remarks. (Photo courtesy of DKI-APCSS)

In his keynote speech, the President unveiled two challenges the Philippines is currently facing: securing the

peace in the West Philippine Sea and securing strategic sectors and critical infrastructure. He also highlighted his administration’s plans and initiatives aimed at tackling these issues.

Discussing the first challenge, President Marcos Jr. gave updates on the escalating tensions in the West Philippine Sea, including the persistent, unlawful threats and challenges against Philippine sovereign rights, as well as jurisdiction violating obligations under international law.

“There is rampant illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and militarization of reclaimed features in the South China Sea,” he said, noting how these illegal activities could lead to irreparable and irreversible damage to the Philippine marine biodiversity, which can imperil livelihood and the future generations of Filipinos.

“So, as I have said it before and I will say again, the Philippines will not give a single square inch of our territory to any foreign power,” President Marcos Jr. affirmed.

He also expressed optimism for the elevation of U.S. and Philippine partnerships that would accelerate concrete and substantial capability development investments and activities to meet the two countries’ shared defense and security objectives over the next five years.

Addressing the second challenge, the Chief Executive advocated for public-private partnerships, particularly in initiatives supporting collaboration within and beyond military and de-

fense establishments.

President Marcos Jr. also cited the importance of developing cyber space technology, wherein the Philippines and U.S. are planning to convene the inaugural interagency PH-U.S. Cyber Dialogue early next year to follow through on their commitment to enhance cooperation in the face of new and emerging threats to cyber security.

“These challenges will continue to evolve but I am confident that, together, we will be able to manage them. Our alliance is stronger than ever because it has been founded on our shared values, our mutual respect and trust for each other as equal, sovereign partners and the unbreakable bonds between our two peoples,” he

concluded in his message.

Following the interview discussions, President Marcos Jr. presented a donation to the State of Hawaii in support of its recovery and rebuilding efforts for the people of Maui affected by the August 8 wildfires.

President Marcos Jr. delivers the donation from the Philippine Government to Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke to aid in the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Maui. (Photo courtesy of DKI-APCSS)

Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke received the donation on behalf of the Maui Strong Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation. Standing alongside Lieutenant Governor Luke during the ceremony were U.S. Representative

see MARCOS, JR. p.13



Some Mauians attended the event at the Convention Center in Honolulu. Angelina Abapo (from left), Boyet Tamayo, Tante and Araceli Urban, Bessy and Alfredo Evangelista and D.J. Metzler.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. METZLER

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Community... In Action



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



Recipients complete a survey.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



The 2023 First place team raise their bowls presented by Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



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.

**Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.** Save the date of March 10 for Binhi at Ani's



2024 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Dunes. Contact Arnel Alvarez at (808) 357-0748 or Bill Ruidas at (808) 344-5251 or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 294-5510.

**Bayanihan Feeding Program** provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi) and Maui Adult Day Care. As of Nov. 30, a total of 21,002 meals were delivered. Teams serving during November included Binhi at Ani Board of Directors, Maui County Federal Credit Union, Maui Filipino Community Council, Miss Maui USA, 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].

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

The Bayanihan Feeding Program is supported by grants from Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i and Nareit Hawai'i. Bayer Crop Science recently donated \$15,000 to Binhi at Ani to help sustain its efforts for both the Bayanihan Feeding Program and the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund.

**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** classes are continuing. They are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 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 be-

come 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](mailto:gkiick@hotmail.com) or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or [claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us).

**Tulong for Lahaina® Fund.** Binhi at Ani established the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund where a \$750 grant would be awarded to those who lost their home, their business or an immediate family member. As of the September 30 deadline, over 700 applications were received. To date, \$126,000 has been raised



COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI



Miss Maui USA volunteers delivering food to Hale Mahaolu residents.  
PHOTO COURTESY LINDSAY RODRIGUES



Volunteers from Binhi at Ani, the Lions Club and the J-1 teachers distribute food boxes, water, toilet paper and comforters from Maui Quilt Shop.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Kai Pelayo (center) of Bayer Crop Science presents a \$15,000.00 check to Binhi at Ani.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Miss Maui Filipina 2023 Johanne Guevarra.  
IMAGE COURTESY JOHANNE GUEVARRA



QR Tulong For Lahaina

and 163 families have received \$750 plus food boxes, hot food, water, gift cards and quilts during two distributions. The next distribution will be held in late January 2024. More donations are needed. 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 using the QR code.



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.  
Miss Maui Filipina 2023 Johanne Guevarra



QR Miss Maui Filipina

**RIZAL DAY**  
Maria Clara & Barong Gala  
& Installment of MFCC Officers

5:30 PM Fellowship  
6 PM Dinner/Program

- "Rizal" Awardees
- Maria Clara & Barong Contest
- Prize Giveaways
- Dancing
- More...

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Rizal Day Maria Clara & Barong Gala and MFCC installation of its officers will be on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 30.  
IMAGE COURTESY LAWRENCE PASCUA



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Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba



Lhizelle Banchiran



Jeremiah Jacinto



Rylie-Evin Riglos

What was supposed to be the sweetest 16th birthday became a day of mourning. Not the mourning that comes with death but one of life. I mourned the life I could not live, the life I did not know about, the life I did not have.

Being Filipino means many things; it includes many different cultural practices and traditions. As a second-generation Filipino American, those cultural practices washed away over time. While adopting American traditions, beliefs and ideals, I did not realize the sacrifice I made of losing the touch I had with my Filipino Culture. That sacrifice became apparent on the night of my 16th birthday.

Filipinos celebrate the transition from girl to woman in the form of a debut. It is similar to a *quinceanera*, but instead of fifteen, on the girl's 18th birthday. In my family, they would mark it on the girl's 16th birthday.

I didn't know what a debut was. I

# Google®

## Is Not Everything ...

### From Islands to Island

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

was lost. Hearing about the experiences and wishes of my family and friends as they celebrated or planned to celebrate their debut, I could never help but wish I had experienced my own. I could never help but wish I had been more educated.

That wish became a reality as, later that year, my classmate and close friend, Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba, and I founded a Filipino Cultural Club

at our school. We wanted to bring some of its familiarity back to the islands. We were the bridge connecting those five thousand something miles.

**Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba** is the President of Maui High School's Filipino Cultural Club. Seeing a year-book in the 2000s revealed to her the existence of the old Maui High Filipino Club. "I've grown to see that some of my friends who are Filipino, are not familiar with their culture. Remembering that, I made it my goal to work with my friends to re-start the club with hopes of helping the students and staff be more familiar about Filipino culture," she explains. Now entering her second and final year as President, she reminisces on the club's beginnings, "Seeing so many people signing up and getting excited for the club made all the work worth it. I felt their pride in their culture and their excitement at being a part of something so special to them. It was at that moment when I knew that I made the right choice of re-starting the club."

Her efforts inspired many of her members, one being **Lhizelle Banchiran**, a committed member turned into one of the most passionate and hard-working secretaries. Inspired by the founding of the Maui High Filipino Cultural Club, Lhizelle desired to put herself out there. "I wanted to leave a legacy but I also wanted to learn more about the Filipino culture. I took this opportunity to gain more knowledge about my culture as someone born and raised here on Maui," she explains. One of the moments that solidified the love she had for the club was at a Karaoke Social, "It was a moment where it felt like I belonged and that I had found my family inside the school."

Such efforts and education travels just a few miles further from Maui High School. **Jeremiah Jacinto** is the President and one of the few founders of Baldwin's Bayanihan Club. "Growing up in a Filipino household inspired me to share with others in the

community the beautiful art and traditions that the Philippines has to offer," he explains. Although they are a newly founded club, they have been busy with a bunch of different events. "One of my most memorable moments is staying after school to practice a folk dance we presented during our school culture day," he recalls.

Another founder of Baldwin's Bayanihan club is **Rylie-Evin Riglos**. Rylie explains "I helped start the club to help people connect to their heritage because while a lot were identifying as Filipino, they didn't know what being Filipino meant and where it all originated." Inspired to do the culture justice, Rylie has been hard at work in the club, "We came together to make traditional Filipino clothing and performed a traditional folkdance called *Tiklos* for our school. All while students learned about what Filipino folk dance looks like and the type of stories it told." *Tiklos* is the native peasant dance of Leyte. It's equivalent to the Bayanihan, a community of giving with no expectation for anything in return.

All Filipino clubs on Maui work on that base idea. We have built this community in our schools where we give students the opportunity to learn about a culture from the many islands of the Philippines to the island of Maui. Even as officers, we never stop learning about our culture. We all have become more in touch with our culture because of our positions. The best way to learn is by teaching and as we continue, we hope we will build more knowledge and experience every time. ✨

**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 a President of Maui High's Key Club, Vice-President of Maui High's Filipino Cultural Club, Executive Secretary of Maui High's Student Government, a member of Blue Thunder, Maui High's Robotics club, and 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 all genres, sketches outlines for her new graphics project, sings karaoke alone or with a group of her close family and friends, and loves anything involving the popular videogame Minecraft Bee. She is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista.



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PHOTO ABOVE: Filipino folk dancers take the stage.  
PHOTO LEFT: President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. takes the podium and speaks.  
PHOTOS COURTESY ALFREDO G. ALFREDO

## Marcos, Jr. ...

from p. 3

tive Case, U.S. Representative Tokuda, State Senator Donovan dela Cruz and State Senator Henry Aquino.

In his remarks to members of the Filipino community at the Hawaii Convention Center the day earlier, the President remembered those who lost their lives following the deadly wildfires. He prayed for those who perished in the blaze during the meet and greet. He said, “Pinapanood naming ang mga pangyayari sa Maui, kawawa naman yung atin mga Pilipino na naging casualty, so before I proceed, let us share a moment of silence as we

remember those who perished in the devastating wildfires in Maui last August.”

During his visit, President Marcos Jr. also authorized the disbursement of another US\$100,000 for Filipino survivors and relatives of the wildfire fatalities. This follows the initial US\$100,000 already distributed by the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu to Filipinos impacted by the tragedy, bringing to US\$300,000 the total amount provided by the Philippine Government thus far for victims of the disaster.

Accompanying the President were several high-level Philippine Government officials in Hawaii, including House Speaker Martin Romualdez,

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo, Trade & Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Press Secretary Cheloy Garafil, National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano, Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez, Deputy House Speaker Ralph Recto, Migrant Workers Undersecretary Patricia Caunan and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Romeo Brawner.

**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 Hawaii, 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).



## Chef Joey ...

from p. 8

roles in disguise and angels on earth, I truly mean it!”

“Promote the Bayanihan Spirit’ is not a new thing for Binhi at Ani. It’s engrained in our logo,” explained Cabanilla-Takushi. “During the pandemic, Binhi at Ani—despite its own challenges—served the community. That is why Binhi at Ani created the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund.”

Cabanilla-Takushi reports that “As of the September 30 deadline, over seven hundred applications were received. To date, \$126,000 in donations were received and 163 families have received \$750 plus food boxes, hot food, toilet paper, water, gift cards from the Lions Club and quilts from The Maui Quilt Shop during two distributions (October 22 and December 3). The next distribution will be held in late January 2024. More donations are needed. And Binhi at Ani—and the people of Lahaina—are asking you to continue to Promote the Bayanihan Spirit—just like Chef Joey, his wife Juvs and the entire Joey’s Kitchen ‘ohana.”



During the Thanksgiving food distribution.  
PHOTO COURTESY JOEY’S KITCHEN NĀPILI

Binhi at Ani recognized Macadangang as part of the annual A Bayanihan Christmas event honoring the legacy of Agrifina Cabebe, (1928–2020) a remarkable trailblazer in Maui’s Filipino community. Cabebe, known as the “Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui” and “The General,” served in many capacities, including the first Chairperson of the Barrio Fiesta in 1970, the first president of Binhi at Ani in 1985 and Chairperson of the Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant. To acknowledge her pioneer-

ing efforts in community building and preserving the Filipino culture on Maui, the Cabebe family and Binhi at Ani created the Agrifina Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship, funded by an annual dinner in her honor. The inaugural A Bayanihan Christmas gathering in 2022 raised enough funds to award three \$2,000 scholarships and after the Lahaina fire, the Cabebe family and Binhi at Ani decided to allocate part of the funds raised during the

2023 dinner to Binhi at Ani’s Tulong for Lahaina® Fund. ✨

Assistant Editor **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 consultation and nonprofit corporations. He has been practicing law for 40 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.



Ti Biag ken Pammati  
"Life and Faith"



God has blessed our family through good times and bad and continues to strengthen us in our faith!  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO

Merry Christmas, Naimbag A  
Pascua Yo Amin! Happy New  
Year, Naragsat Ken Nagasat  
A Baro A Tawen!

Deacon Patrick Constantino

MATTHEW 2: 9-10

*I*di nangngeg da ti Ari napan da ket Nakita da ti baggak ti daya nga inda sinurot agingga a nagsardeng ti ayan ti maladaga!

Special tribute to our great grandchildren who participated in their church Christmas programs at St. Joseph Church, Makawao and St. Elizabeth Church in 'Aiea. We need



Great granddaughter Reina Cadelinia performing at the Christmas program at St Elizabeth Church in 'Aiea.  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO



Great daughter Keira Cadelinia playing mother Mary surrounded by angels, shepherds and kings at St Elizabeth Church in 'Aiea.  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO

to start our children early in life to have God in their life! Starting from baptism, have them attend religious education to receive the precious body and blood of Christ in holy communion, to confession of their sins in penance services and be reconciled with God and then receive confirmation and become a soldier of God to help defend our church! Jesus, the greatest gift from God! Ni Apo Jesus isu ti kapatgan a regalo ti Dios! God is good! Ti Apo ket nasayaat! All the time! Nga kankanayon!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.*

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

*Naimbag a Pascua yo amin! Naragsat ken nagasat a baro a tawen! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

It's wonderful to be with all of you as we gather to celebrate and give thanks for this Miracles of Mir-

acles! He came! God so loved the people of the world He sent His Son to become one of us. The Son of God slipped into the world with little fanfare—only the announcement by the angel to the shepherds. Gently, as a baby, He was born, in the poorest of circumstances. His parents, obeying the commands of the ruling power of Rome, were in Bethlehem for the census. "Nothing good could come from Nazareth" was a common opinion. When the child grew into a man, when the man grew in knowledge and experience, after He lived nearly thirty years with the poor, He went forth to teach us, the people, how to solve our own problems. After all—we caused them. And He knew we would not appreciate, not even accept permanent solutions and cures if they were forced upon us.

And so, He taught, He lived the example of loving concern for all people, He gave His very life for each of us. He showed how important in the eyes of God is every human being. Not one from among the rich nor the poor was insignificant. Every person from the most deformed and handicapped to the models of health and beauty were special to God. No one was to be overlooked nor cast aside.

Attracted by his love, people began to follow and listen to Jesus. Christianity came into being. "See how they love one another" was remarked about the Christians.

After more than three and a half centuries following the birth of Jesus, Rome recognized the Christian faith, ended the persecutions and al-

see CHRISTMAS p.16



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

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

good friends with. With turkey day out of the books, we look forward to my favorite month of the year, December. A month where you get to see family you haven’t seen in a long time and find presents under the Christmas

tree. Maybe play Santa Claus to the kids and make memories lasting a lifetime. Shout out to our December Birthday celebrants: Cora Evangelista, Guadalupe “Oping” Bautista, Maricel Agcaoili Butay, Lilia Ross, Jay Cor-

puz, Kristina Angeline Cabbat, Helen Bumanglag, Mimi Botuyan, and Annisa Lynne Marie Casabay. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasan-gay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!* Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

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 her mind. 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 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 get something in the *sasakyan* (car) and will wait in the living room. Michael, we have things to talk about.” He wipes his mouth,

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
Beautiful	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
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Unsa?	Ano?	Anni’?	Nanoyin?
Food	Pagkain	Makan	Pagkaon	Pagkaon	Kanan	Kapangan

stands up and goes to the front *puw-erta* (door). Everyone is left quietly finishing their *kanan* (food) on their plate. Michael’s dad turns to Michael and says, “When you are done, you can just leave your dishes. Your Uncle Ray wants to talk to you both.” “I would like to help clean up and wash the dishes. It’s the least thing I could do,” Angel says in a low voice. Michael’s mom says, “It’s ok, Angel. Rob and I are still going to eat our dessert so we will be at the dining table for a while. Ray would like to talk to you and Mikey.” Angel looks at Michael and then looks back at Michael’s mom. “*Salamat po.* (Thank you.) *Daghang salamat* (thank you) for the *pagkain* (food). It was very delicious. *Agyamanak* (thank you) for cooking.” “You’re welcome, *Iha*, anytime,” Michael’s mom says. Michael stands up and goes to help Angel get up from her chair and they walk to the living room, where Uncle Ray and Katherine are waiting. “Sit down,” says Ray seriously.

“You know why we are here, right? Angel?” He looks at Angel who’s looking down at her *gamat* (hands). Angel nods without looking at Ray. “How about you, Michael? Do you know why we are here?” Ray turns to Michael. “No, Uncle Ray. *Hani* (What) is this about?” Michael asks confusedly. Ray lays the manila folder on the table quietly. “*Diri* (Here). “Go ahead, Michael, open it and read it.” Uncle Ray says seriously, looking at Angel, who is still looking down at her *kamay* (hands). Michael reaches for the folder. His *ima* (hands) are shaking. He opens it and there, he sees Angel’s mugshot. His *nawong* (face) turns white. His *kamot* (hands) are shaking. He turns to Angel and asks her, “*Ano* (what) does this mean?” he asks her with a shaky voice. Angel starts to sob. Her tears are running down her cheeks because she



sat on the sofa. Now she is sobbing so hard. “Please explain to us,” Michael asks her quietly. “Tell us if this is true.” “Did you do this? Did you hurt someone? Did you kill the cop?” Angel is just shaking her head while sobbing. “This is not true,” Angel says, one word at a time. “Well, explain why your picture is up on the wanted list,” Ray says to her seriously. Angel wipes her tears with the back of her *ka-may* (hands), takes a deep breath and looks up. All eyes and all ears are turned to her. Even Michael’s parents who are still sitting down at the dining table, quietly listening to her.

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

**Dulce Karen Butay** 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 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.

# Ti Biag ken Pammati

## “Life and Faith”



Our 3 year old great grandson Kaihiwa Kaiali'i'i resting on his horse before practice for the after-Christmas Rodeo!  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO

### Christmas ...

from p. 14

lowed the Church to exist above ground in view of and in the midst of all. Through the power of God's love, Christians conquered and won the hearts of the Roman tyrants. Not a sword was used. Or as we might now say, not a shot was fired.

The victory was brought about through the belief God was present among His people strengthening them, loving them, nourishing them—supplying all they need for the many years of struggle and suffering. How far have we come since then. Certainly there has been some progress.

The world experiences more concern for the individual—at least in some parts. There are more people looking out for one another's good, more people devoting their time to bringing food, equality and freedom to those denied it.

On the other hand, we find ourselves in quite similar circumstances as in the days of the birth of Jesus. A godless power rules much of the earth, keeping millions of people in slavery. There are many poor and starving among us. Injustice and inequality are still widespread.

Though we know the principles of morality much better than people in biblical times, we exist in the atmosphere of glaring, public acceptance of sin. Despite our medical advances, diseases old and new plague us,

bringing many people to early graves. The people of the world are as much in need of a Savior as ever! But we have already been given one!

We are here now celebrating the coming of our Savior into the world. We are filled with peaceful and joyful feelings of hope as we participate in the magnificent celebration of the Christ Mass. Everything around us not only in the church buildings but in the shopping centers, on television and along the decorated streets reminds us of this Savior we yearn for is already here—and has been here for nearly 21 centuries.

What is wrong? Why isn't the world in much better shape? Because so many people, like maybe you and I, forget the salvation of the world depends upon how we live every moment of every day. Jesus, our Savior is not going to make everything nice and comfortable while we run around selfishly seeking personal satisfactions. Jesus is not going to put everything in order while we bring misery into the lives of people who are unfortunate enough to cross our paths. Jesus is not going to pick up our clothes we continually throw on the floor. Maybe mother will, but God won't!

Jesus came to show us the way and to help us live it. It is up to us to put forth constant effort to cooperate. Because the Son of God became one of us and dwells in each of us in all His power and love, we are capable of doing what people



St Joseph Church ready to receive Jesus Christ at Christmas! He is the reason for this season!  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO

could not do before. All it takes is the firm decision and daily recommitment to that decision to live that life of loving concern.

When you look into that crib and see the image of the baby Jesus lying in the manger, do not walk away and leave him there. Take Him with you—onto the streets, into the buildings, wherever you go. Never forget He is in You! Expect His strength, His courage, His help and then do what needs to be done! Love with His love, care for each person you meet with His concern. Then, at least those who come into your life will taste some of that salvation we all yearn for.

The joy and peace of Christmas can become a reality in the world only if we, with God's help, make it happen. I pray each of us will really try. May you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may you share it with others today—and every day of

your Life! ✨

**Deacon Patrick Constantino** retired from active Ministry on July 1, 2022. He is still a Deacon in good standing with full faculties to perform all sacraments in the Diocesan of Honolulu Hawai'i. Constantino has been ordained for thirty-six years. He is the first Filipino Deacon in the Diocesan of Honolulu. 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-two years. They are blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.



Great granddaughter Reina Cadelinia performing at the Christmas program at St Elizabeth Church in 'Aiea.  
PHOTO COURTESY Dcn. PAT CONSTANTINO



KwentoKwentuhan

JOY in the Midst

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

Every year for the past seven years I choose a word for the year. This one word serves as an anchor for that particular year. In January 2023, I wrote an article here in the *Fil-Am Voice* sharing JOY is my one word for 2023.

It is now December, and as the year 2023 comes to an end, I want to share with you some insights I learned about JOY. Throughout this year I learned JOY shines best “in the midst” of various experiences. There are many experiences when we can choose JOY. Let me share three of those experiences in 2023 which I think many of you can relate:

1. JOY in the midst of celebration – This experience of JOY is the most obvious and most loved. It is paired with happiness, it is filled with laughter, love, and sometimes even singing and dancing!

This year, my husband and I celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary. Isn’t that wonderful? It truly was a joyful occasion and worth celebrating! On the actual date of our anniversary, we both got sick with the flu, we had to cancel our dinner reservation but it did not deter us from feeling joyful about this milestone in our marriage.

In the midst of finalizing this article about JOY, I was invited to the “First Birthday Celebration” of Cora. I thought, wow, this is another joyful occasion worth celebrating, so of course I attended! Cora is the granddaughter of Alfredo Evangelista, our Assistant Editor here at the *Fil-Am Voice*. What a blessing it was to celebrate Cora’s first birthday with family and friends. We wore party hats, we sang happy birthday, we prayed and we ate delicious food at Tante’s Island Cuisine. A first birthday is an important milestone and what a JOY it was to celebrate with Cora and her family.

2. JOY in the midst of difficulties – JOY is what gives us strength in the midst of trials and tribulations. It is what makes us strong in the midst of pain and suffering. It is what sustains us when we feel like everything is not working out, when we are tempted to look at the world with doom and gloom, and feel like giving up hope.

How do we manifest JOY in the midst of difficulties? It is by practicing gratitude and looking for glimmers of hope. For example, when the devastating Lahaina Fire happened on August 8, it was truly shocking and heartbreaking. The days, weeks

and months that followed were tough, especially for those directly affected by the fire—the victims who were displaced from their homes and have lost everything. In the many interviews that followed, one thing I kept hearing is how families were simply thankful they survived—that their families are alive and safe. Another glimmer is how the community stepped up and generously helped in the victims’ time of need. There is story after story of neighbors helping neighbors. And, every one of those stories serve as glimmers of light for those who are living through very dark times.

3. JOY in the midst of failure – This year I published a Maui Vacation Planner book. I was very excited about this and was looking forward to its success.

I previously published a Maui travel guide book, *Maui 2021 and Beyond*, and it was a huge success. It was an Amazon Best Seller for its category. By now, (looking at the subtitle of this paragraph) you probably already have guessed this second book I published was a fail. It did not sell well and it did not reach the goals and expectations I had for it. I had a decision to make: either I get discouraged and not publish a book anymore or look at this as a learning experience for the next book I am writing. I chose the latter.

I reminded myself that my word for 2023 is JOY, so I chose to look at this as a learning experience. Recognizing there is JOY in the process of learning, even through trails and errors, enables me to move forward with positive anticipation on this next book project I am working on.

How about you? Has something happened to you this year that may be considered a failure? I encourage you to choose JOY and have that positive mindset that you can overcome. Look at the New Year 2024 with great expectations.

In closing, since this is our Holiday Issue of the *Fil-Am Voice*, I would like to remind us about this verse: “Joy to the World, the Lord has come”—This is a famous verse in the Bible (Luke 2:10) and in a Christmas carol *Joy to the World*. This is the ultimate JOY we can experience. The JOY of knowing Jesus personally in our lives. May the JOY of this Christmas season fill your hearts and minds this 2023 and beyond.

**Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she



PHOTO ABOVE: My hubby and I visited Fairmont Kealahani’s Christmas Tree. We will re-schedule our 30th Anniversary Dinner celebration soon.



PHOTO LEFT: Cora’s 1st Birthday celebration taken while all of us are praying for blessings for her, and also for the food we are about to partake in celebration of her birthday.



PHOTO RIGHT: Hawak Kamay is one of the many glimmers we saw in this recovery process for Lahaina. We are thankful for all the organizers and volunteers for their service.

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*.





Belle Bates - Isabelle P. Dela Cruz Bates

The relationship between a dad and his daughter can be one of the most special relationships of a lifetime. Such a relationship is evident with this month’s featured *Sakada* offspring, Isabelle Paraoan Dela Cruz Bates and her father, a 1946 *Sakada*.

Isabelle “Belle” Bates was born in Bil-loca, Batac, Ilocos Norte, Philippines in September 1951. She and her husband, Larry Bates currently live in Prescott, Arizona. She attended Bil-loca Elementary School, Immaculate Conception Academy High School, Maui Community College, and University of Hawai’i at Mānoa where she graduated in 1974 with a BS in Nutrition & Food Service Administration. She was very involved in athletics and the arts when she was in her elementary and high years and received several awards.

In her employment experiences, Belle has worked in many different fields. Starting in the Summer 1971, she was an apprentice seamstress (serger) at the former Ikeda’s Sports Factory in Pā’ia, Maui. 1974–1975 she worked as Food & Nutrition Ed Instructor (O’ahu Geriatric Program) Department of Education through Farrington Community School & Catholic Community Services in Honolulu. 1975–1976 she was a Home Economist for Gems Store (Appliance Dept.), Honolulu and Waipahu. While helping a friend at the Shadow Puppet King’s Alley (Waikīkī), she met the love of her life, Larry Bates. Soon after, Belle moved to Los Angeles, California with her best friend in search of better opportunities and full-time jobs. 1975–1976 she was the General Nutrition Centers Manager (Culver City, California). 1977–1979 The Yogurt Place Store Manager then GM (Century City, South Bay, Arcadia). 1979–1981 she was a full time mom and housewife to care for her newborn daughter, Liza.

In 1981, Belle went back to the workforce. From then until 1996, she held several financial jobs such as Transamerica Financial Services: Branch Manager, Security Pacific Finance: Branch Manager, Security Pacific Bank VP in New Accounts & Loans.

1996–2001 Belle tried another venture. She left the bank, purchased and operated a Mini Asian Market, “Bahay Natin Food Mart” located in West Los Angeles, California.

In 2002, Belle returned to Bank of



Dad & Mom; Dad's first vacation (1951) 5th wedding Anniversary (Philippines)



Dad & Mom; 10 year anniversary (1956)

# Isabelle Paraoan Dela Cruz Bates

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY DELA CRUZ BATES ‘OHANA

America, in the Premier Banking & Investment Division VP, Premier Client Manager, Wealth Management Sr. Banker. In 2008, Bank of America purchased Merrill Lynch - and Belle became Vice President, Senior Wealth Mgt. Banker, Belle retired in November 2011.

On December 31, 1977, Belle married Lawrence “Larry” Bates. He was originally from Syracuse, New York and a U.S. Air Force veteran. He graduated from the University of South

Carolina with B.S. in English. He was a U.S. Air Force Captain and served in the Vietnam War. He was in the MBA Program at California State University. He studied and received his California State Teaching Credential.

Larry’s employment history consists of Management Consultant, 1974–1991, Rapid Transit District (LA Transportation Supervisor/Consultant/Instructor); 1991–1996, Self Employed: Public motivational Speaker 1977–2002; LA Unified School District:

Public School Teacher, 2003–2008, Retired in 2008; Tai Chi Instructor, L.A.; and currently in Prescott, Arizona. Larry enjoys Tai Chi, hiking, traveling, reading, listening to music, watching sports and movies.

Belle and Larry have one daughter, Liza Perera (Bates), born and raised in West Los Angeles, California. She graduated from Culver City High School and received her AA Liberal Arts Degree from Santa Monica College. She started as a professional child actress and later shifted her entertainment focus to Polynesian dancing. In 2003–2010, she created and operated a Polynesian Dance Group. She worked as an entrepreneur, Professional Polynesian Entertainer, Casino dealer (supervisor) at a major casino on the Las Vegas strip.

Belle has three adopted brothers,



Family Photo (1988) - Parent’s 42nd Wedding Anniversary. Back row: Rodolfo “Rudy,” Lawrence “Larry,” Laurence “Lorn” Daniel “Danny” Front row: Rovie, Revelina, Belle, Liza, Dad, Mom, Tessie, Loren, Patricia, Mina “Trish”



Family Photo (1990) Mother's Day at Mama's Fish House (windy day). Larry, Belle, Liza (a.k.a. Kimie), Mom and Dad

Danny, Lorenzo and Rudy. They are all nephews of Belle's late Dad. Danny Pascua arrived on Maui in June 1972. He attended Baldwin High School. He was a Supervisor at the Automotive Service Dept at HC&S Co. He is married to Patricia Kaiwi of Hāna. She worked at the Dept of Social Services. They have two children, Filomena "Trisha" Pascua and Dominic Pascua. Sadly, Danny passed away in 2021. Lorenzo Sotto arrived on Maui in August 1977. He was a Pu'unēnē Mill Machinist at HC&S. He retired in 2016. He is a self-employed certified Plumber. He is married to Theresa "Tessie" Gumanas. She works at the Maui Adult Day Care Center. They have two children, Loren Mae (Pharmacist) and Vernon (Physical Therapist). Two grandchildren are Paityn and Tyran. The third adopted brother is Rodolfo "Rudy" Dela Cruz. He arrived on Maui in August 1977. He worked at HC&S as Sugar Broiler Mechanic Lead Man. He retired in 2016. He is married to Revelina (Revie) Espiritu. Revie worked as a sales associate at Sears. She has a cleaning service business. They have three children, (Rovie, Rodolfo, Jr., and Jordan), five grandchildren (Jayson, Ken, Kharsin, Clover, Kaniela) and one great grandson (Zayne).

Belle received awards from Bank of America Premier Banking & Investments Nationwide Banking: Top Percentage (entire USA), Ascension Seton Northwest hospital: Exemplary Volunteer Service - Maternity & NICU.

Belle's community involvement includes Ascension Seton NW Hospital Maternity/NICU & Baby Blanket Projects and Volunteered at South Austin Food Bank.

Belle enjoys Zumba, Tai Chi, Hula, picture taking, gardening, hiking, traveling, sewing/crocheting, watching Hallmark movies & HGTV, real estate investing and property renovation.

Belle's father, Benigno Dela Cruz was one of the thousands of *Sakadas* who came from the Philippines in 1946 to work in the sugar and pineapple plantations of Hawai'i. He was born on November 2, 1915 in Apaya, Laoag, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He is the second eldest child of seven children of Cesario and Lorenza Dela

Cruz. He married Belle's mom, Luciana Paraoan in January 1946, just weeks before he was quarantined in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, a required preparation for his upcoming trip to Hawai'i. Benigno together with the other *Sakadas* came to Hawai'i on a boat. Because of the rough ocean water, it took almost two months to reach Hawai'i. A lot of them including Benigno got very seasick during their tedious, long journey.

Benigno was hired to work in the cane fields on O'ahu. He asked to be moved to Maui, however, in search of a better job position. He was pleased his new employer, HC&S Co., provided free camp housing and transportation



Belle's Family (2021) Liza, Larry and Belle

to work.

They just had to wake up super early to prepare their breakfast and lunch and be ready for their company ride every morning. Although it got pretty lonely at times, he had two roommates so they could all talk stories together while sipping on their beers after work. As an irrigator, he had to move fast to keep the water flowing through the young canes. His job got easier when he was provided a small company truck.

According to Belle, her father was a simple, patient and frugal man. Based on his cost analysis, he could save a lot by going home only every five years. Instead of going home on an expensive airplane ride, he would take the boat instead. He went home to his bride in January 1951. It was then that Belle was conceived. Because of work, how-



Parents with the grandchildren (Christmas 1995). Back row: Trish, Grandpapa, Loren, Dominic, Grandmama, Liza. Front row: Vernon, Rodolfo Jr "JR", Rovie

ever, he returned to Hawai'i before Belle was born. This situation happened a lot to other *Sakadas*. Belle did not see her Dad until she was five. Of course, the bonding between them was not there. But eventually Belle and her Dad became close, especially when she and her mom joined him in Hawai'i in 1969.

Like many of the newcomers from the Philippines, things did not match Belle's expectations of Hawai'i. The plantation home they had was no comparison to their house in the Philippines. She was so disappointed and wanted to go back to the Philippines. Her Dad reassured her, however, that things would be better. Sure enough, in 1976, they built a comfortable home on Papa Avenue. There at the Papa Avenue house is where they had the happiest moments of their lives with their extended family.

Belle's parents were very loving, thoughtful, kind and generous to their families back in the Philippines. They helped bring them and their families to Hawai'i. The following family members were Sister Dorotea (Rustico) Santos, Brother Gregorio, Sister Esperanza Gouda, Sister Filomena Pascua, Sister Agustina (Andres) Sotto and Laurence, Elders sister Felonita Aguinaldo and Dino.

Like most *Sakada* parents, Belle's parents were focused on education. They encouraged her to attend the summer session at Maui Community College. There Belle became good friends with yours truly. We did a lot together. We went to the movies and even church together. We became such good friends we even shared some personal information with each other. We also both transferred to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus, from which we both graduated.

Here is Belle's Personal Reflection about her Mom and Dad: *Tatang and I took time to build a special bond. I understood the time apart for a period of five years during my childhood made him feel deprived of the joys of fatherhood. My daugh-*

*ter's birth brought so much joy to them. Having seen her grow up gave him a little glimpse of fatherhood.*

*As strict as my father was and as overly protective my mother was, they managed to teach me how to be strong, independent and self-reliant. Most importantly, I gained my Tatang's trust. It's been years since their passing but I still miss them every day. I appreciated the loving sacrifices they made for me and for each other. I am forever grateful for the results of their hard work. I feel blessed for the type of life they have created for me and my family.*

*My Mom passed away on February 3, 1996, barely making their 50th anniversary. Three years after that, my Dad found someone to love. With my blessings, he married Maria "Mary" Asugui (second marriage for both). She took good care of him and he was happy and content during the last three years of his life. He passed on May 13, 2002. Mama Mary and I are now closer than ever.*

*I often ponder on my parents' advice. My Dad said: 'Stay humble, be patient, live within your means, be mindful of others.' My mom said: 'Be the best that you can be, stay persistent, count your blessings every day. Re: A Honey do list, be patient. If you can't wait, do it but without a grudge. Give proper respect to your mother-in-law; never ever pick a fight with her!'*

*My parents' legacy: They paved the way for a better life for Dad's siblings and their families and inspired their children to do the same. ✨*

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 *Sakada*) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing

class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



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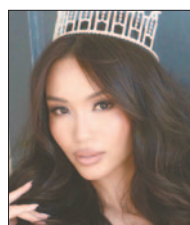
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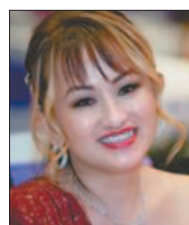
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