



Harvest for Maui
Shan Tsutsui, COO of Mahi Pono leads the charge of a local farm that's *pono* for Hawaii's future.
See below



Mauians Remain Connected
Maui remains such a small town so our communities are close.
See p5



Wildfires Changed Our Lives
A look at some who experienced it.
See below



Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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inside



Editor Bagoyo hopes for peace in New Year 2024.
p4



A glance at Filipino New Year traditions.
p6



A community band for Maui. Kwentu Kwentuhan takes a look.
p14

Mahi Pono: Five Years of Planting

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MAHI PONO

Quick question. What do Costco, Target, Whole Foods, Foodland, Pukalani Superette, Takamiya Market and Tamura’s (and other local retailers) have in common? If you answered you can find Mahi Pono products (limes, lemons, onions and watermelons through its brand Maui Harvest) at these retail stores, you are correct.

Five years (December 2018) have passed since Mahi Pono purchased some 41,000 acres of former H.C.&S. sugar cane land from Alexander & Baldwin. (Two years before, on Jan. 6, 2016, A&B announced it was closing the Pu’unēnē mill which employed 675 at that time. The final sugar harvest ended on Dec. 12, 2016, closing the sugar plantation era in

see MAHI PONO next page



Mahi Pono employees inspect limes before being packed for sale.

Hopes, Dreams and Challenges

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR



Rose Ann and Jerald Misay in front of their damaged home.

PHOTO COURTESY ROSE ANN MISAY

Traditionally, on December 31, local clans gather to celebrate the coming of the new year. Families and friends gather over a feast that may include *lechon*, *sashimi*, *poke*, BBQ, noodles, *mochi*, *suman* and my favorite *Pinoy* dessert, *tupig*. And our *kababayan* are scrambling to complete their Prosperity Plate of Fruit. (Is it twelve round fruits for each month or thirteen, with one for good luck?) And yes, fireworks to scare away all the bad spirits. At the stroke of midnight, champagne is popped, cars are started, all lights are turned on, folks jump for joy, and hugs and kisses all around. And then later, the fireworks are cleaned but leaving some red paper for good luck (at least that is what my

see HOPES p.3

FREE



Employees display Mahi Pono's watermelon available locally at retail outlets such as Costco.



Mahi Pono planted 21,000 papaya trees.



Politician turned farmer Shan Tsutsui, COO of Mahi Pono.



One of Mahi Pono's partnership projects is the Chef's Corner where five local chefs are each given a quarter-acre parcel of land to grow vegetables for their restaurants.

Mahi Pono ...

from p. 1

Hawai'i.)

Mahi Pono now has 350 full-time employees who are Maui residents, with a number of them veterans of HC&S farming operations.

Maui resident and current Chief Operating Officer Shan Tsutsui says "Our primary crops consist of limes, lemons, oranges, tangerines, coffee, avocado, macadamia nuts, onions and watermelons." Tsutsui added many of Mahi Pono's crops were still growing.

"As of December 31, 2023, we have planted approximately 10,500 acres of land with crops," Tsutsui describes. "We also have about 9,000 acres in active cattle ranching operations. We have only owned the property for five years and we are proud of the progress we have made in this relatively short time. Going forward, we will continue to turn fallow former

sugar cane fields into more planted acres of diversified agriculture."

The company's website, www.MahiPono.com outlines the company's plans for future crops. A map at www.mahipono.com/facts-and-figures is helpful to see what has been planted and what is planned for the future.

Tsutsui more often than not shows up to work in blue jeans, work boots and a polo work shirt—a far cry from the aloha shirts and coats and ties that made up his wardrobe as a financial advisor, a State Senator and then as Lt. Governor. He thinks of himself as a farmer now and dresses appropriately. Tsutsui, who initially began as Mahi Pono's Senior Vice President of Operations, became COO in December 2020. Tsutsui's position "oversees the business functions of the company, including government relations, community outreach, business development, human resources and legal representation."

Tsutsui has proven an almost perfect fit as Mahi Pono, which not only purchased the land but also A&B's interest in the East Maui Irrigation system. "One of the primary goals of the Mahi Pono farming operations is to make sure water is used efficiently," he explains. "We have made significant investments to install brand new timed and targeted systems in all our planted fields. The result is an on-farm irrigation system that is much more efficient than the systems that it replaced."

The diversion of water by A&B for sugar was a divisive issue for decades and remains a challenge politically and practically. As farmers are acutely aware, water is necessary for farming and most of the Maui central plain formerly used for sugar plantings remain dependent on water from outside the region. "From an operational standpoint, we do need water to farm," observes Tsutsui. "EMI diverts surface water from East Maui through the EMI ditch system under a one-year permit that EMI obtains every year from the State Board of Land & Natural Resources. EMI then delivers that water to the Mahi Pono farm."

"We also acknowledge the cultural importance of water as a natural resource, and to that end, we are compliant—and will remain compliant—with the in-stream flow standards set by the State in 2018," Tsutsui emphasizes.

But Mahi Pono's head notes the difficulty in planning when the availability of water is year-to-year. "EMI is also pursuing a long-term lease from the State of Hawai'i. An Environmental Impact Statement for a long-term wa-

ter lease was successfully filed and accepted in 2021. That pursuit is still ongoing."

Knowing it takes a team to succeed, Tsutsui lauded Mahi Pono's employees. "I think the highest successes have been the team that we have built thus far, and the amount of planting progress that the team has achieved. To have turned more than 10,000

acres of fallow sugar-cane land into 10,000 acres of planted diversified agriculture has been a huge undertaking. The team deserves a ton of credit for all the work they have put in thus far. That said, we are not done yet. We are continuing to push forward, one step at a time."

Tsutsui expanded on the complexity of farming. "Every day brings a new challenge. I think that is something inherent in farming and agriculture in general. Although there are farming-specific challenges that affect our operation, other general conditions like weather, housing prices, economic changes, emergency situations, and natural disasters have also affected how we operate. Like every other business, we try our best to adapt and move forward."

Part of Mahi Pono's goals was to grow food for local consumption. "One of our first crops was red, white and yellow potatoes. A tremendous number of potatoes are imported into the State and we wanted to offset those imports to a degree by growing potatoes here," Tsutsui says. "We did

see MAHI PONO p.7

"The team deserves a ton of credit for all the work they have put in thus far. That said, we are not done yet. We are continuing to push forward, one step at a time."

— SHAN TSUTSUI

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At 7:24 pm, Kai Pelayo was walking on Front Street to go and talk to his hanai brother at the Mala boat yard.



At 7:30 p.m., close to Mala Drive. The fire ball is at Front Street near the Jodo Mission. PHOTOS COURTESY KAI PELAYO

Hopes ...

from p. 1

Chinese neighbor used to tell me about scraps that ended on our yard and driveway).

But for the Lahaina fire survivors, the celebration was understandably generally less festive. With the devastation of Lahaina and the loss of life, property and lifestyle, how could one actually celebrate?

For Lahaina fire survivor Kai Pelayo and his family, they celebrated New Years Eve with their family. “We were

at our house,” says Pelayo. “It was more muted but we celebrated through our grandchildren—the joy of seeing them run around and act as children. We celebrated life through their eyes. A lot of the adults were remembering times past but my grandchildren still can find joy.”

Pelayo explained how in his neighborhood in the Wahikuli area, folks came back to their homes on New Years Eve, even though smoke and ash damage to their homes still made them unlivable.

Pelayo, who lived through Hurricanes *Iwa* and *Iniki* on Kaua’i, considers

his family to be one of the more fortunate ones. Only 20 percent of the roof of his home suffered damage. While insurance covered only repair of the damage, he has gone ahead and replaced the roof.

But on the night of the Lahaina fire, Pelayo had no expectations of that fortunate result. Pelayo and his family fled to escape the fire and find shelter like other Lahaina residents. “At 9:45 p.m., my wife came upstairs and we could see the fire jump the stream,” Pelayo recounts. “We knew we had to go so we started to put things together. Five minutes later, we knew we didn’t have

time. As we were driving, we could see the end of the street. We saw the blue lights of the police car before we even saw the car. We heard the police [announcing over their car loudspeakers:] ‘Get out.’”

Pelayo recalled staying barely ahead of walls of smoke that would have made roadway visibility challenging. Pelayo and his family ended in the parking lot of the Lahaina post office at the Civic Center before they had to relocate when the fire threatened that shelter site as well.

Sixty-eight-year-old Karl Casco was
see HOPES next page

It’s a New Year...



... remember to plan for your estate

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 Science for better



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



2024 A New Beginning—Let There Be Peace on Earth!

The New Year marks the beginning of a fresh start for many of us. Indeed! A new beginning! As we say in Hawai'i, Aloha Oe and goodbye to 2023, in the spirit of welcome to many promises for better days ahead. A fresh start motivates us to consider that project we have been thinking about for a long time and gives us the energy to face our lives with renewed zeal, zest, hope and joy.

As we reflect on the numerous challenges before us, along with the heartaches haunting some of our closest loved ones, let us choose to embrace hope for the better and seize the countless opportunities awaiting us. Let us release and let go of the mindset of never good enough, and replace it with a positive I am good enough! Let our new start commence with loving ourselves, knowing we are created by God as special beings, fully equipped and endowed with everything we need to serve others. And as we continue to grow,

let us remember we are not expected to achieve perfection—because each of us is a work in progress.

If you plan to make some New Year's resolutions for 2024, let us resolve to be a peacemaker, an encourager, a positive influencer—more kind, more forgiving of those who may have wronged us in the past. Too often, our New Year's resolutions are focused on ourselves—like lose weight, save more money, travel adventure, learn a new hobby, get a new car or spend more time with family and friends. Let's make this year's resolutions be about how we can help to bring peace to the world. As many of us have sung,

*Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant be.
With God as Creator,
brothers/sisters all are we.
Let us live with each other
in perfect harmony.*

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 7



At 11:20 p.m., from the parking lot of the Lahaina post office at the Civic Center.
PHOTO COURTESY KAI PELAYO

Hopes ...

from p. 3

at home on Malo Street with three of his family members when the police arrived at their home to have them evacuate. Casco was able to drive to a safe location.

Rose Ann Misay was working at the time of the fire while her husband, her eleven-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son were at home. At 3 p.m., Rose Ann's family told her when they opened the window, the fire was already at their neighbor's house. "They escaped the fire right away," said Misay. "But due to the high winds, they were trapped in traffic so what they did was to leave our car at Ace Hardware and walk from there to the Lahaina Civic Center. But when they were there, someone said it was not the place for a shelter so they walked along the highway towards Kā'anapali together with my Mom, all barefooted. It's a good thing they saw our neighbor pass by so they rode in our neighbor's car to the Ritz Carlton."

Casco and Misay lost everything in the fire. "We are so affected by this fire because all our belongings, memories, cash, jewelries are gone," says Misay. "It's very depressing and painful, especially seeing my kids going through this devastation." Many Lahaina survivors remain hesitant to share their stories of escape and survival. But while adults are often crying, "the kids are looking at it through their eyes of innocence," observes Pelayo. "Some of them are losing their innocence because of this."

In addition to losing their homes, thousands of Lahaina fire survivors are still sheltering in hotel rooms and their future housing prospects continue to be in flux.

During the second Tulong for Lahaina® Distribution on December 3, 2023, recipients were asked to complete a confidential survey. In responding to the question about their housing situation, many responded they had to move. One recipient noted their family had to move at last minute notice while another family stated it was their fifth time to change hotels. One survivor said they had to move because the owners wanted to rent their unit to a guest. Another survivor simply commented, "When are they going to kick us out?"

Casco knows his family can stay in the condominium for one year; another survivor is in a rental house for one year, with the rent paid by their insurance company. Another family found a studio but so far has not received any rental assistance.

Others continue to search for affordable housing or a place to accommodate their pets. As one survivor observed "There's not a lot of choices and its expensive."

Like almost everyone who completed the survey, Casco wants to rebuild (only two have no plans to rebuild). Misay prays for help. "I lift up to the Lord everything. We are praying to rebuild our house and hoping there is some more help because we don't know if we can rebuild our house the same because contractors are so expensive. The big challenge is how to

see HOPES p.12



The Misay's burnt vehicle.

PHOTO COURTESY ROSE ANN MISAY



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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Leap Year 2024 Couldn't Have Come Sooner for People on Our Island

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

2023

will not be remembered fondly for many reasons. The August fires dominated the last half of the year, throwing plans and hopes off-kilter. In part, the devastation that swept away Lahaina town and damaged portions of Upcountry reflects how Maui Nui remains such a small town. The damage to the people and businesses of West Maui (and Olinda and Kula) impacted many residents who didn't live in Lahaina or on the mountain because family or friends did lose loved ones, homes and jobs. We Mauians remain interconnected whether by *koko*, chance or choice.

It's part of being from an island. I was born and raised on Maui, growing up mainly in Pā'ia (before that Mill closed) in a neighborhood where family and community had meaning and value—you watched out and cared for your neighbors and their families because they looked out for yours. The old-fashioned reciprocity of caring is the best aspect of the Filipino cultural trait of *utang na loob*—innate gratitude arising from our inner self and character—but it was also something shared with other groups from that era.

At the year-end Rizal Day celebration organized by the Maui Filipino Community Council (MFCC), Distinguished Service awardee Alfredo G. Evangelista blamed me for getting him involved with the Filipino community on O'ahu. I sincerely apologize to those who over the last three

decades have been subjected to Abogado Evangelista's semi-Jaycees authoritarian community organizing style—a lot of committee meetings, written agendas and after-action meetings (later on during his mellowing years, always over a meal and drinks). No soft-sell persuasion from *Tata Fred* whether he was a board member or just legal counsel for an organization—he brought Maui Mayor Elmer Cravalho's *My Way or The Highway* leadership to many longtime loosely operated groups.

He and I sat through many Filipino community events, installations, pageants and parties that felt prolonged and could have used a stronger hand in starting on time and, more importantly, ending at a reasonable hour. So many times, events and projects benefitted greatly from his penchant for pedantic programming in terms of efficiency and on the surface a fun and smoother event (which you couldn't tell from the pensive and stern countenance of Attorney Evangelista).

As I've grown older, I myself have come to appreciate going with the flow in Filipino events because history shows things always go awry when you least expect (you can't always rely on technology, for example or volunteers). Just send the next entertainers on stage while the professionals work out the music glitch for the originally scheduled act or make the emcee give away a few more door prizes to kill time.

I was also lucky to have watched the examples of Filipino leaders and to have been mentored and encour-



MFCC Distinguished Service Awardee Alfredo G. Evangelista, Esq. (from left), Outstanding Youth Elizabeth Thomas, Outstanding Member Judith Piano and Outstanding Citizen Kit Furukawa are shown here after receiving their awards.

aged by people like lawyer B. Martin Luna, trailblazing public citizen Richard "Pablo" Caldito, ILWU union organizer Pepito Ragasa, retired police officer and churchman Rafael Acoba, and businessman Vince Bagoyo and Councilmember Rick Medina. In his remarks, Attorney Evangelista (yielded the balance of allocated talking time by others recognized—Outstanding Youth Elizabeth Thomas, Outstanding Member Judith Piano, and Outstanding Citizen Kit Furukawa), also mentioned two other heroes of mine, the General Aggie Cabebe (who maintained and fostered Filipino folk dancing on Maui) and community force of na-

ture Nancy Andres. (Last year, in getting the Citizenship recognition, I also expressed my gratitude to my elders *Manong* Alfredo and *Manang* Bessy Evangelista, among others). Evangelista also mentioned other key participants in raising the Filipino community—entrepreneur Melen Agcolicol, educators Nora Takushi and Elizabeth Ayson, chefs Tante and Telly Urban and Joey and Juvs Macadangdang, businesswoman Teresita Noble and community liaison Kai Pelayo, ballroom dance guru and golf tournament savant Bill Ruidas, artist Phil Sabado and former Maui Mayor Kimo Apana, and

see THE YEAR 2023 p.12



Abogado Evangelista provides some remarks in accepting his award.

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Carla Mae Agrade



Ginger Hill



Judy Marie Dela Cruz



Cassandra Mae Bio

Do you believe in good luck? Many people worldwide have different things they do to increase the likelihood of having a good year. These things are as specific as doing different actions during a particular day and time.

My family’s good luck charm was limited to wearing polka dots on New Year’s Eve. Polka dots are essential because their circular shape symbolizes prosperity. I’ve indulged in numerous superstitions, however, to bring luck in the new year.

Such superstitions include but aren’t limited to wearing the color red, jumping when the clock strikes 12, having 12 round fruits on the table and so on. Each act represents a different way to bring good luck in a specific way. It may sound unbelievable but the magic of these superstitions has positively affected many people’s lives.

For example, **Carla Mae**

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Is Not Everything ...

Leave a Door Open for a Blessing

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

Agrade, Ginger Hill, Cherish Navarro and **Cassandra Navarro** all practice the superstition of jumping between 11:59 p.m. on New Year’s Eve and midnight on New Year’s Day. This superstition is said to help people get taller in the upcoming year. This superstition is a hit or miss for this

group of people. Ginger believes “it’s just a fun coincidence and not totally logically possible.” Carla and Cassandra have tried it for years but unfortunately have not had any luck in the height department. Luckily, Cherish has grown to an astounding five feet and five inches. Cherish and Cassandra are sisters; while Cassandra is the oldest, she’s the shortest in her family.

Besides hoping to grow in the new year, Carla and Ginger are looking forward to the end of their Senior year. Cherish and Cassandra both wish to be one step closer to getting their license. Cherish says, “My goal is to get my driver’s permit and be a better version of myself,” while Cassandra says she hopes “to finally get my driver’s license as I have been holding it off and to at least buy one item off my wish list.”

Judy Marie Dela Cruz and **Cassandra May Bio** practice the superstition of displaying twelve round fruits on the table on New Year’s Eve. “Each fruit represents a month of the upcoming year and it’s believed to bring prosperity, happiness, good health and money. It’s such a vibrant and meaningful way to welcome the new year!” Judy exclaims. Cassandra believes in this superstition since she grew up hearing it. “In my personal experience, I do have a good year whenever my family follows this superstition,” she explains. In the new year, Cassandra wishes to find balance in her life. She also hopes to travel more in the upcoming year.

Judy, on the other hand, has mixed feelings about these superstitions. She

explains, “Sometimes, there are certain years when we feel truly blessed, while others may not be as fortunate. It’s natural to have some uncertainty about it. Superstitions can be a fun part of our traditions, even if we’re not entirely sure about their actual impact. As long as it brings joy and positivity to our celebrations, that’s what matters.” Judy looks forward to leaving Maui in the new year. “It’s tough to see Lahaina change after the fire, especially knowing it may never be the same again. My family and friends being affected by the fire and the trauma I experienced is something that will always stay with me. Taking some time away from the island seems like the next step for me to find that much-needed sense of relief. I will return to the island someday, to settle down and have my own family,” she expresses.

The Lahaina fire was unexpected—a devastating event causing great sadness among the islands. We carry the effects of this event with us every day—some people more than others. Ending the new year, it’s important to remember what happened, honor all the people affected, honor the people who helped and offer love and respect to everyone.

Chelsea Navarro practices the superstition of leaving her door open on New Year’s Eve. Not all day but when the clock strikes midnight. It represents an opening for blessings and good luck in the new year. Chelsea will practice this tradition on New Year’s Eve as it brings her and her family good luck every year. As she enters 2024, Chelsea hopes to have a healthy and prosperous year and to spend it with her family.

As we enter the new year, we should all leave a door open, literally or figuratively. The new year welcomes us with new blessings and positive memories.”

– JHANESSTY VAYE BAUTISTA

member to take in all that happened this year—to remember the bad and the good. Remember to be kind to everyone and to love like there’s no tomorrow. Take risks and embrace change. *Maligayang bagong taon* (Happy New Year) to all! ✨

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high see **GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING** p.15

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Mahi Pono ...

from p. 2

encounter some difficulty with harvesting those potatoes without cosmetically damaging the potatoes’ thin skin. We plan on revisiting potatoes as a crop in the near future but we may pick varieties that have a thicker skin to enable a simpler harvesting process.”

As with all successful and community-minded business owners, Tsutsui found a reason to be helpful with the potato crop. “The silver lining is we donated a large portion of the harvest—which again, only suffered cosmetic damage—to the Hawai’i Food Bank at the height of the COVID pandemic. The Food Bank then distributed more than 50,000 pounds of these potatoes to the community through direct pick-ups and delivered



Another Mahi Pono partnership project is the Community Farm where local farmers can lease farmland to grow their crops such as dragon fruit.

food boxes.”

Tsutsui, who is thankful “to the entire Maui community for the support of our farm thus far,” understands the

see MAHI PONO p.12

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

Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With every breath I take,
let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

In January, we celebrate a holiday honoring the life and legacy of peacemaking of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose leadership and ultimate sacrifice for the civil rights movement changed forever, the trajectory of history for many Americans of color. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his “non-violent struggle for civil rights for the Afro-American population,” an annual award to the person or organization, “who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

Of the twenty-two American recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, some of the most notable include: Theodore Roosevelt (1906), Woodrow Wilson (1919), Charles Gates Darwin (1925), Jane Addams (1931), Ralph Bunche (1950), Linus Pauling (1954, 1962), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964), Henry Kissinger (1973), Jimmy Carter (2002), Al Gore (2007) and Barack Obama (2009).

Each recipient receives a medal,

a diploma and a monetary award that has varied throughout the years. It is one of the five prizes established by the 1895 will of Alfred Nobel (who died in 1896) for outstanding contributions in chemistry, literature, medicine, peace, physics or physiology. The peace prize is presented annually on December 10 in Oslo in the presence of the King of Norway.

In these past few years, our political discord has fueled division within our nation—mistrust—and has oftentimes led to violence. Let each of us make peace our priority and restore the goodness of humanity. The Bible also reminds us in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled; neither let them be afraid.” And in Romans 12:18, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

In this year, 2024, may you all have good health, good experiences and good friends.

Cheers for another year! Wishing you all new beginnings. Make this year memorable with lasting positive outcomes! Happy New Year and May the Grace of God bless you and your family with His abundant love and joy! ✨

Vince Bagoyo

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

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Community... In Action



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



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 \$500 security deposit; from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$800 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$500 security deposit; or from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$950 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$500 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.

The 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25. If you are interested in becoming a Miss Barrio Fiesta candidate, contact Chairperson Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at (808) 276-8861. Please also contact Cabanilla-Takushi for vendor and sponsorship opportunities.

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.

There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. Create a Team by contacting Lucy Porte at



Golfers and volunteers pose in front of the Hole-in-One prize donated by Jim Falk's Valley Isle Motors during the 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

(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 Kupuna 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 adults at all levels of fitness to become more active, energized and empowered to sustain independent lives. For more information on Enhance@Fitness, contact Enhance@Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or gkiick@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

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 busi-



COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI



Naomi Skye Paa is crowned as Miss Barrio Fiesta 2023.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Tinikling performed by Dance International Production.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Miss Maui Filipina 2023 Johanne Paige Cruz Guevarra is shown here currently enjoying her trip to the Philippines and representing her crown and title well. The Philippines trip is just one of the perks of earning the title of "Miss Maui Filipina." If you are between the ages of 18 to 27 (see other criteria below), consider entering the pageant this year!

IMAGE COURTESY JOHANNE GUEVARRA



QR Tulong For Lahaina

ness or an immediate family member. As of the September 30 deadline, over 700 applications were received. To date, \$126,000 has been raised 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 One-he'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 or donate via credit card through www.binhiatani.org. Or donate using the QR code.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council installed its 2024 officers during the annual **Rizal Day Celebration** on December 30: President Madelyne G.



Pascua, Vice President Mark Paranada, Recording Secretary Michelle L. Santos, Corresponding Secretary Ernesta Caniaveral, Treasurer Judith Piano, Assistant Treasurer Aileen Concepcion, Auditor Melanie Garde, Immediate Past President Domingo "Jing" Gumpal and Directors Cornelio "CJ" Ancheta, Emerita "Emi" Cortez, Christine Gumpal, Arthur Latayada, Lawrence Pascua, Marilyn M. Romero, and Cherry Respcio Urias. Benjamin Acob serves as the Council's Legal Counsel.

The Council is seeking contestants for the **2024 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant** which will be held on June 7, 2024. The qualifications are: between the ages 18 and 27; female; full or part Filipino ancestry; and single, never married. For more information, please call or text (808) 264-0871 or email mmf.mfcc@gmail.com.



ABOVE: Installation of 2024 Maui Filipino Community Council Board of Directors. LEFT: Installing Officer Sen. Troy Hashimoto. RIGHT: Madame President Madelyne Pascua.

PHOTOS: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



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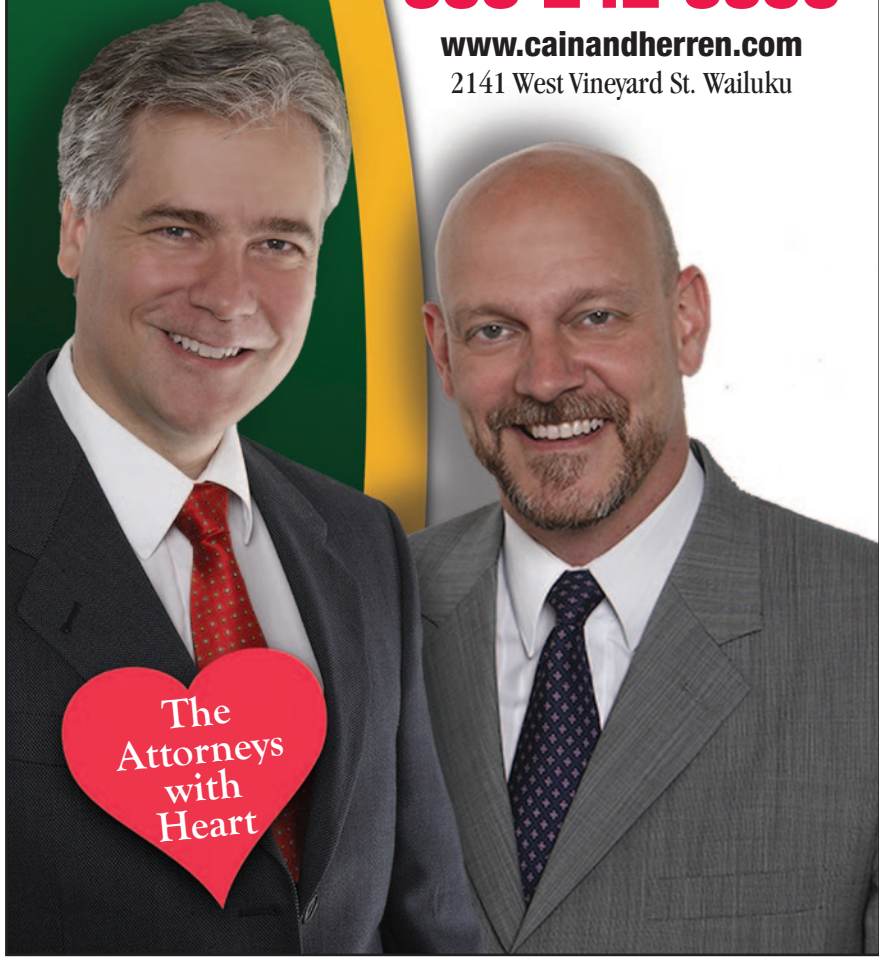
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Tribute to Mary, Our Holy Mother of God

2023: A year with many challenges. 2024: God gives us "Life and Faith" as long as we are alive ... there's always hope.

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

With Hope, let us work together and make it happen and enjoy many of God's blessings (2024) and tomorrow's!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:16-21):

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem 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.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord!

The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looks upon you, kindly and gives you peace. It is clear from this prayer of blessing given to Aaron and his sons the Lord takes great delight in looking at us. Each day, God gazes upon us with love. His face is shining down upon us, just as the sun shines upon the earth.

Imagine a parent holding a baby, staring into his or her eyes. The meeting of their eyes reveals a longing for connection and an intimacy that surpasses a mere glance or superficial look. Their mutual regard allows them to delight in each other's presence.

No words are needed at this moment, for the eyes speak "I love you" louder than any words can. This is the face shining on us, looking upon us, and beholding our countenance.

We live in an age of unprecedented distraction, however, where an attention economy vies for our gaze.

We spend a large portion of each day staring at screens purporting to depict reality when all around us, the reality of God is staring us in the face.

How can we slow down and set aside our distractions, often our all-

important to-do lists, to recognize the Lord in our midst? How do we behold the Lord's face in return for His contemplation of us?

Through the Incarnation, made possible by Mary's irrevocable "yes" to become the mother of God, the face of God was made visible on earth in a whole new way.

No doubt, Mary held Jesus and locked eyes with her son; they peered with utmost wonder into each other's faces.

Today, we still can see the face of Christ all around us—through the beauty of creation, our neighbor and even our own selves. As Mary held Jesus and contemplated all that He was, so the Father holds us.

As a child lies in the arms of his or her mother or father and the two behold one another, so we remain in the arms of the Father who loves us without fail. God looks upon us with a love casting our inner darkness and insecurity, our anxiety and sin.

In prayer we allow God to see us, love us, and give us peace. And as we return his gaze and witness the face of Love, we know we are God's beloved children. God gazes upon us with Love, for we are His beloved children!

The song, titled "Mary Did You Know," you must hear and reflect. It is about Jesus, her gifted Son from God to us.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy. Would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy. Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy. Has come to make you new; This Child that you delivered. Will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy. Will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy. Has walked where angels trod, And when you kiss your little baby. You've kissed the face of God?

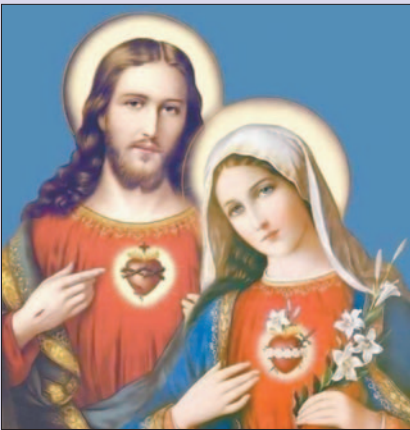
Mary, did you know? The blind will see, the deaf will hear. The dead



Our number 13 gift from God, great grand child Caleb Cadelinia with great grandma Cora Constantino.



This collage of family pictures includes our son Cary—a gift from God!



Mother and Son who lived like us!

will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak. The praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy. Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy. Was Heaven's perfect Lamb. And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great, the Great I am?

Oh, Mary, Mary, did you know?

I love this song and I listen to it over and over again. It reminds me of my son Cary who just passed away, of the beautiful times and struggles he went through in this life which was given to us by God and returning to Him. Cary fought to the end, then God took him home.

This song tells us of the story Jesus lived like us and suffered

like us, because He loves us. From birth to death.

At times we parents think we should die before our children. But when it is different, we question, "Why?"

But God has a plan for each and every one of us. Let us enjoy His plans, even if we do not understand them.

Thank you God, for the gift of our son Cary! May he rest in peace! ✨

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.



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

What a year it has been! The Maui Wildfires changed our lives in so many ways. Despite those challenges, we are

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

indeed Maui Strong! So let us welcome 2024 with more hopes and dreams. We hope this year will heal us and help us to move forward.

Shout out to our January Birthday celebrants: Bessy Evangelista, Kallie Keith-Agaran, Camille Rhianna Butay Hayden and Amalia Quedding, Happy,

happy birthday to you! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Tagalog) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ilokano) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Ibanag) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Kapampangan) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!* (Ilonggo)

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

“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 on the wanted list,” Ray says to her seriously.

Angel wipes her tears with the back of her *kamay* (hands), takes a deep breath and looks up.

All eyes and all ears turn to her—even Michael's parents who are still sitting down at the dining table, quietly listening to her.

“We are very poor in the Philippines and all I can think of is to come to Hawai'i to have an opportunity. My *tatay* (father) is sick and my *nanay* (mother) is just a homemaker. I am the oldest of the family and so I have to act to be able to feed my family,” Angel says softly but it's loud enough to be heard by everybody in the *tahanan* (house).

“We sold the lands that my *amahan* (father) farms and even sold the *carabao*. We borrowed *salapi* (money) from the pawn shop and used our small *balay* (house) as collateral. It is still not enough so we borrow from relatives so we have something to pay to this man named Billy. He said if we pay 800,000 pesos, he will be able to

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Father	Tatay	Tatang / Itang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Tata
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
House / Home	Bahay / Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Work	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
No	Hindi	Haan	Awan	Indi	Dili	Indi
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran!

bring me to Hawai'i.” Angel starts to sob because she remembers her family she left behind.

“After giving the *kwalta* (money) to Billy,” she continues between her sobs, “he told me that we will be leaving in three days.” And she cries again.

“I don't have a lot of things but I packed my favorite sweater that my *yama* (father) gave. He worked so hard to buy me that sweater.” She wipes her *nawong* (face) using the back of her *kamot* (hand). “All the clothes I brought were given from my cousins and *kaibigan* (friends) because they know I don't have much.”

The three—Ray, Kathleen and Michael, are listening attentively to her. All their *rupa* (faces) are blank. Michael's parents, who are still at the dining table, stopped eating so they could hear Angel's story.

“Billy told me I will be doing housework and chores for a really *mayaman* (rich) man in Hawai'i. There will be many of us there because he has a lot of *ubra* (jobs). I will be able to help my *Amahan* (father) pay for his medicines and food. He even assured me I would be able to send *kwarta* (money) home every

month and *yena* (mother) will not have to suffer and struggle anymore,” Angel cries louder.

Ray cannot wait so he stands up and asks her, “Did you kill the cop?”

Angel quietly says, “*Hindi*. (No).”

“Then why is it that it's you they are saying who killed the cop?” an irritated Ray asks.

“*Indi* (no), *dili* (no), I did not kill the cop. I don't have a gun or did not do anything to kill that officer,” Angel says sobbing. She covers her *mukat* (face) with her *ima* (hands) this time.

“Police officers escorted us after we landed at the airport. They took us to their car,” Angel explains.

“I realized he was a crooked policeman because we were escorted through the airport and avoided all the proper procedures to enter the U.S. like customs, and the bag check area,” Angel says in between her cries.

Angel has to relive what was supposed to be the start of her “American Dream” but turned out to be the worst day of her life again. How

would you feel about reliving an incident that is not pleasant and gives you nightmares?

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.





Employees sort onions prior to being processed.



Field employees smile during the employee recognition luncheon.

Mahi Pono ...

from p. 7

importance of the community. “We appreciate the input, patience and help along the way,” he says. “The community plays a critical role in the success of any new venture on-island and we have always tried to incorporate the community’s preferences into our farming operation. For example, early on, we decided that all our crops would be non-GMO. That was a conscious choice based on the community’s feedback throughout the years on that specific topic. We continue to take this approach as we progress toward the complete build-out of our farm.”

Mahi Pono is also involved in the response to the Lahaina fires. “The Lahaina and Upcountry fires were disasters of historic proportions, and like the rest of our community, our initial response was of grief and shock,” recounts Tsutsui. “However, like the rest of the community, our secondary response was ‘How can we help?’ Our

Mahi Pono team worked with the Maui Fire Department to cut emergency fire breaks and operate water trucks on the day of the fires. In addition, the State’s relief effort—led by U.S. Senator Brian Schatz and Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke—asked Mahi Pono to oversee and staff the Central Maui distribution center.”

Tsutsui explains the efforts of Mahi Pono. “Over a three-week period, Mahi Pono employees worked with volunteers to distribute water, food, clothes and other supplies to residents displaced by the fires. We also donated watermelons, onions and other food products to the relief effort.”

Tsutsui and Mahi Pono continue to have that “can do” attitude and promise to help where needed. “We continue to be engaged with government officials, and we stand ready to help however we can in the coming months and years with the rebuilding process.”

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the Uni-

see MAHI PONO p.15

Hopes ...

from p. 3

rebuild, where can we find a cheap contractor, where can we get money to rebuild? We still continue to pay our mortgage so it’s hard. We really need financial help.”

Some Lahaina fire survivors have moved out of Lahaina—to Makawao, Kahului, Kihei and Wailuku. One survivor used their insurance money to purchase a home in Kahului to stay in until their Lahaina home is rebuilt. But not everyone can do that. With two children enrolled in Lahaina schools who do not want to transfer to another school, Misay has decided to stay in Lahaina while her home is being rebuilt.

Pelayo knows the rebuild process will take many, many years and understands Lahaina will never be the same. Pelayo did some quick calculations—the number of truckloads FEMA’s contractor hopes to move each day and the amount of land area that requires clearing—and believes it will take about two years before all the debris can be removed from Lahaina. And after the area is cleared for restoration of infrastructure—utilities, water and sewer lines—and the likely reconfiguration of roadways, the County would still need to process all the building permits and determine how to

treat the rebuilding of homes built in the plantation-era and modern zoning and land use restrictions imposed.

“We are adapting to new changes as best as we can,” says Casco, who hopes the community can continue to work together and work for the same goals. Misay is “thankful to the people who are helping the Lahaina community.” She continues to pray the community “will continue to support and help us. We pray for more help, more contractors, more materials, more help for us, please.”

Our community will need to continue heeding those cries for help. ✨



The Misay family spends the day together. PHOTO COURTESY MISAY 'OHANA

The year 2023 ...

from p. 5

graphics maven Lawrence Pascua.

While some think we move together in unison, it’s just public relations and social media magic. I differ from him, even if we both were among the first Maui High School classes at the new Kahului campus. He went off to school in the Midwest before transferring to the University of Southern California and then moving cross-town to attend the University of California at Los Angeles law school. I went back east for undergraduate studies then to the University of California at Berkeley for law school. Fred worked for Ben Cayetano the lawyer full-time; I spent a summer at that firm as a law student but then worked full-time for Ben Cayetano the Governor. Tata Alfredo remains an unapologetic fan of all Los Angeles professional sports teams, including the Lakers, Raiders (yeah, they have moved several times) and the hated dodgers. At least he does cheer as a back-up for the Seattle Seahawks (he married into that fandom). I remain more eclectic—following the Golden State Warriors, Cincinnati Bengals and San Francisco Giants. If you ask him, he’ll probably blame me for our annual donation to the Las Vegas Sports Books on the Raiders, Bengals and Seahawks to make and win the Super Bowl. The reality is we can’t stop just in case one of them actually wins the damn game.

This year MFCC unintentionally



Alfredo Evangelista (from left), Lydia Coloma, Basilia Idica Evangelista, Catalina Evangelista, Magdalena Evangelista, Velma Coloma take an opportunity for this photo at the Rizal Day 2023 Maria Clara & Barong Gala and Installation of MFCC Officers event held this past Dec. 30.

balanced the community members honored this year—FBI Abogado Evangelista and anti-Martial Law Furukawa. And two people without any frenemies in the local community—Elizabeth and Judith.

Both noted in some way the need for Maui’s Filipinos to be part of Maui—not just the Pinoy potion. Furukawa noted corruption takes on many forms, including silencing the voices and participation of segments of the community. I’m old enough to recognize Filipinos and the Filipino community throughout my life some-

times seem outside the mainstream, so it’s not a new experience. Furukawa recognized in the aftermath of the Lahaina and Upcountry fires, part of the community’s fight is to provide a collective voice to the often ignored, neglected and discounted Filipino community.

I have the same Sakada background as Tata Alfredo. He knows the transition of a community (old and new)

reduced to cheap labor for the Visitor Industry’s back of the house just as the Sakada generation provided the field workforce for the plantations or filling food and other service jobs not viewed as living wage careers. He understands the strong inclination to fit into the broader Maui and Hawai’i community—especially at a time where pride in being native/Native Hawaiian has been rekindled. But Evangelista noted making Maui home doesn’t require abandoning your ethnic heritage.

In his remarks, he recalled the various people who inspired and mentored him and cajoled his involvement in the community. He concluded any distinguished service award was really a recognition of the collective work of many people—especially those who developed the broader relationships allowing others in the Filipino community to succeed in their chosen activities and professions. Filipinos are part of the fabric of Maui and cannot be unwound from the proverbial Paoay inabel weave. ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

practices law in Wailuku with Taktani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLP. He lives in Central Maui. He says if Pete Johnson scores on 4th and one in Super Bowl XVI at the Silverdome, the Bengals are the team of the 1980s. That’s his story and he’s sticking to it.



Discover the Vibrant World of the Maui Community Band

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog” | PHOTOS COURTESY MAUI COMMUNITY BAND

Did you know Maui boasts a thriving community band that warmly extends an invitation for you to become a part of its musical tapestry? Brace yourself for an exciting opportunity!

Founded in 2003 by the late Lisa Owen, the Maui Community Band originated as a modest gathering of musicians eager to refine their music-reading skills. Fast forward to the present day and this dynamic ensemble has grown to encompass over forty members ranging in age from 8 to 78. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, these musicians exhibit varying levels of expertise and play an array of instruments. Since Lisa’s illness in 2017, Ted Manzano, Jr. has assumed the role of Principal Director and Conductor, steering the Maui Community Band with passion and dedication.

Manzano is a seasoned musician and conductor with an impressive background echoing a lifetime commitment to music. Manzano’s musical journey began on the shores of Maui. He attended Baldwin High School in Wailuku, graduating in 1965 and then ventured to Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he further honed his musical skills, graduating in 1969. Learn more about Manzano’s noteworthy credentials and remarkable experience by

reading his bio on the band’s website at MauiCommunityBand.com.

In a recent conversation with Manzano and Warren Orikasa, a dedicated member of MCB, I delved into the heart of the band. Our talk story revealed the band’s overarching mission: to stage captivating concerts at various venues, providing a platform for wind and percussion players to cultivate their music-reading skills and delve deeper into their instruments.

Manzano extends a casual, yet encouraging, invitation to anyone contemplating joining the Maui Community Band. “Come play, enjoy, and live longer,” he exclaims, capturing the essence of the band’s ethos.

In addition to Manzano serving as the conductor, the band is fortunate to have a lineup of passionate assistant conductors who play a pivotal role in guiding the ensemble to new heights.

Among these accomplished assistant conductors are Julius Galanto, a band teacher at ‘Īao School, and David Reid, who shares his expertise as a band teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. The band is also guided by Jalen Baraoidan, the esteemed band director at Lahainaluna High School, and Sharon Nakama, who holds the position of band director at Baldwin High School.



The Maui Community Band Filipino members took a picture following a holiday season concert: In the front row from left are; Ted Manzano, Brittini Soriano, Ezriel Aceres, Mason Baybayan, Matthew Yagin, Kaylie DeGuzman, Katherine Taylor, Julius Galanto. In the back row from left are; Sonny Gamponia, Ryan Tesorio, Barbara Grandon, Cody Sarmiento, Matthew Rosete, Dan Reisinger and Nicolas Calibuso.

Adding to this illustrious lineup is Siuai Laufou, a retired band director and a member of ASCAP, nationally recognized as a composer and arranger. Laufou was commissioned to arrange music for this year’s Hawai‘i State Rose Bowl Marching Band, a testament to his exceptional talent and influence in the musical realm.

How to Join the Maui Community Band

Embarking on this musical journey is a straightforward process. Begin by attending one of their rehearsals. Immerse yourself in the experience, evaluate if it aligns with your expectations for a community band and don’t hesitate to pose questions. After observing the rehearsals, you’ll be better equipped to ask pertinent questions and gauge your

compatibility with this vibrant and diverse musical community. The band meets at ‘Īao School Band Room on Thursdays, at 6:45 p.m.

Events and Performances

The Maui Community Band curates a concert lineup for every season, embracing the musical spirit of Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Stay connected with their vibrant performances and event updates by following @mauicommunityband on Instagram and Facebook. For the latest information on their concert schedule, these social media platforms serve as your go-to source. Currently on the lookout for potential venues to host their concerts, the band invites you to reach out with any suggestions or opportunities. Don’t miss the chance to be part of their melodic journey—engage with them today!

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 and 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.



The Maui Community Band perform during a holiday concert engagement.



Rose Fernandez



Lino Padre



Cory Fernandez (from left), Rose Fernandez, Sienna Fernandez, Sayler Fernandez, Jeremy Fernandez and Brandon Fernandez pose to take this family photo.

Gratitude can have a significant impact on our minds, bodies and our overall well-being. Someone said “A grateful person is a happy person.” This month’s featured Sakada Offspring, Rosalie “Rose” Padre Fernandez is this such person.

Rose was born in May 1969 at Maui Memorial Hospital. She attended Kahului School, Maui High School and Maui Community College now known as University of Hawai’i Maui College, where she received her Associate Science Degree. She worked at Hale Makua from 1987–1990. Since 1990, she has worked at Kaiser Permanente, where she is currently the Administrative Coordinator, Nursing Administration.

Rose is married to Jeremy Fernandez. He works as a truck driver for the County of Maui, Wastewater Department.

Jeremy and Rose have three children. The oldest, Cory Fernandez, a

Rosalie Padre Fernandez

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY FERNANDEZ ‘OHANA

son, attended Waihe’e Elementary, ‘Iao School, Baldwin High School and Western Oregon University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He is employed at the State of Hawai’i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

Their second child, Brandon Fernandez, a son, attended Waihe’e Elementary, ‘Iao School, Baldwin High School and the University of Hawai’i Maui College where he received his degree in Auto Body. Brandon is self-employed at Brandon’s Auto Body. He is engaged to Macey Harris. They have a daughter together, Sayler Kala’i Fernandez.

Their only daughter, Sienna Fernandez, attended Waihe’e Elementary School, ‘Iao School and is currently a senior at Baldwin High School. She plans to attend Oregon Institute Technology in the Fall of 2024.

Rose attends St. Anthony Church in Wailuku. Her hobbies and interests consist of traveling, spending time with her granddaughter, watching her children play sports, attending sport events and spending time with her family and friends.

Rose’s sister, Linda Fernandez works at Hale Makua as a Nursing Secretary. Her husband Leslie works for Goodfellow Brothers as a Heavy Equipment Operator. They have three children, Troy, Katrina, and Hayley, two grandchildren, ages one and two.

Rose’s brother, Eddie Padre works at Hertz Rent-A-Car as an auto technician. His wife, Clairolyn Padre works at Avis/Budget Rent-A-Car as an Auto Shop Secretary.

Rose’s father, Lino Padre was one of the thousands of *Sakadas* who came to Hawai’i in 1946, recruited to work in the sugar and pineapple plantations. He was born on September 23, 1916 in Paing, Bantay, Ilocos Sur, Philippines.

At age 30 and single, Lino left the Philippines on board the *S.S. Maunawili* leaving the Philippines from Port Salomague in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. They boarded the *S.S. Maunawili* by climbing a rope. The *Sakadas* reached Hawai’i after a month-long journey. Upon arrival on Maui, Lino Padre worked at HC&S (Hawai’i Commercial and Sugar Company) right away. He did jobs such as, “push canes,” a job that required bending and pushing the sugarcane stalks away from the pathway and drove trucks that pushed the harvested burnt sugarcane stalks into piles before

someone else picked the sugarcane to transport them to the sugar mill. Lino did this job until he retired at age 62 in 1978.

At age 46 in 1962, Lino Padre decided to go back to the Philippines to find a wife. While he was attending a church service during Holy Week in Bantay, he spotted a beautiful young lady. That young lady was 19-year-old, Perseveranda Peria. It was meant to be they would get married even though both had different callings in life. They were married on March 29, 1962 a month before Lino was scheduled to return to Hawai’i because of his job. Percy was able to follow Lino to Hawai’i in March 1966. They lived at McGerrow Camp, a camp located across the Pu’unēnē sugar mill. Percy Padre was a stay home mom while her children were pre-school age. When her children were old enough to attend school, she went to work at the Maui Pine Cannery in the crush department. She also worked at the Maui Beach Hotel, Kā’anapali Beach Hotel, Papaya Farm, and finally at HC&S. There she repaired PVC pipes and worked in the installation maintenance department repairing straps for water drainage until she retired in 1992.

Lino and Percy were instrumental in sponsoring their brothers and sisters so they would be able to come to Hawai’i to find a better life for themselves and for their children. It was a sacrifice on their part because of their love for their brothers and sisters. Before Lino passed away on July 17, 1999, they both enjoyed taking trips to Las Vegas.

Rose shared her feelings about her parents: *I love both of my parents with all my heart. They are kind people who taught their children and grandchildren to be the same like them. I aspire to become like my parents and achieve in*

“My parents sacrificed so much for me and my siblings to make sure we are well taken care of, gave us what we needed to be successful in life ...”

– ROSALIE FERNANDEZ



Rose with siblings and mom pose for this photo; Linda Fernandez (from left), Rosalie Fernandez, Percy Padre, and Eddie Padre.

Dad Lino Padre
and Rose Fernandez



Lino and Percy Padre



Percy and
Lino Padre

life with their blessings. Everything they did, they did for our betterment and both went the extra mile. My parents sacrificed so much for me and my siblings to make sure we are well taken care of, gave us what we needed to be successful in life and both worked so hard to put their children to college so we could get better paying jobs. I am very grateful for everything my parents have done for me and my family.

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.

Mahi Pono's response to the the Fires in Up-Country Maui and Lahaina was first of shock, but the second response was "how can we help," says Shan Tsutsui, COO of Mahi Pono.



Mahi Pono ...

from p. 12

versity of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, 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.

Google® Is Not Everything ... | from p. 6

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, and a member of the National Honor Society



and Creative Media Club. 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 video game Minecraft Bee. She is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista.

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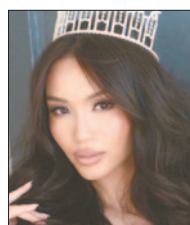
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