



### Maui Filipino Chamber leadership

Grace Sales named 2026 President. See p4



### Binhi at Ani raises funds for scholars

Events are designed to foster our youth. See p8



### Some Things Never Change

Author puts things in perspective. See p5



# Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

February 2026 • Vol X No2 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

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'Maybe love doesn't always come in the right order,' said Angel's mom. p11



Deacon Pat Constantino talks about an 'Easter reset.' p12



Pinoy Seattle Seahawks kicker Jason Myers shoes-in consistent 3-pointers putting them ahead of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LX.

IMAGE COURTESY OF LAWRENCE PASCUA AND AI IMAGE GENERATOR

# Fil-Ams in the Super Bowl

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

After all was said and done, Super Bowl LX resulted in a win by the Seattle Seahawks over the New England Patriots, 29-13. There were a lot of interesting storylines/sub-plots to

- SBLX:
- Will Sam Darnold be able to exorcise his demons and play turn-over free football?
  - Will Seattle's defense now

- called "Dark Side" surpass the previous "Legion of Boom" defense?
- Will the Seahawks find redemption from that infamous decision in Super

- Bowl XLIX (2015) to pass from the one-yard line instead of giving the ball to Marshawn Lynch?
- Will the Patriots begin a new dynasty under quarter- see SUPER BOWL p.2

# FREE

# Super Bowl ...

from p. 1

back Drake Maye and head coach Mike Vrabel?

- Will the half-time show featuring Bad Bunny be entertaining?
- And yes, how many field goals will Seattle's Jason Myers—a Fil-Am—kick?

That's right, you read it right. Jason Myers is of Filipino ancestry. Myers' paternal great-grandfather arrived in Pensacola, Florida from the Philippines and served in the U.S. Navy. Myers—although he hasn't visited the Philippines yet—is proud of his Filipino roots. "I wish I would take more opportunity to dig into my Filipino roots, but I am proud to say I am Filipino," Myers said in an interview with ABS-CBN. "It's made me who I am. It's a tiny little group when you get to pro sports. There are some names that don't sound Filipino, but once you find out, it's always met with a smile and a hug."

Myer's NFL story is one of hard work and patience. He grew up in the San Diego area (Chula Vista which has a sizeable Filipino community) and went to high school at Mater Dei High. He enrolled at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he set records. But yes, Marist College is NOT a feeder school to the NFL. After graduating in 2013, he returned to San Diego, worked as a valet, and in 2014 kicked in the Arena Football League. In 2015, he was signed by the Jacksonville Jaguars but was cut in



Jason Myers kicking a field goal during Super Bowl LX.

PHOTO: MMG, CC BY 4.0, [HTTPS://CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG/LICENSES/BY/4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

2017. He signed with Seattle in 2018 but was released and signed with the New York Jets. In 2019, Myers returned to Seattle as a free agent.

Myers' signing with Seattle paid dividends. In Super Bowl LX, Myers set the record for the most field goals made—five (and tied the record for the most field goals attempted—five). In fact, for the first three quarters, Myers scored all the points for Seattle:

- 1st quarter - 51 yard field goal;
- 2nd quarter - 55 yard field goal;
- 2nd quarter - 34 yard field goal; and

- 3rd quarter - 37 yard field goal.

Seattle was only able to score touchdowns in the fourth quarter—one via a 16-yard pass from Darnold and another by an interception by Uchenna Nwosu (both of whom are USC alums, by the way). Myers would successfully kick both extra points as well as a 26 yard field goal in the fourth quarter, for a total of seventeen points! Some argued Myers should have been selected the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player but those honors went to Seattle running back Kenneth Walker III, who rushed for 135 yards on twenty-seven carries. (Walker had

the most rushing yards in a Super Bowl since 1997.)

Myers joined a small (hopefully growing) group of Filipino-Americans playing in the Super Bowl.

Over ten years ago, the Seahawks also featured another proud Fil-Am-wide receiver Dwight Baldwin in Super Bowls XLVIII (2014) (catching five passes for sixty-six yards and a touchdown) and XLIX (2015) (catching one pass for three yards and a touchdown).

Baldwin grew up in Gulf Breeze, Florida and played high school football at Gulf Breeze High School. For

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Doug Baldwin (89) stands with his Seattle Seahawks teammates during Super Bowl XLVIII after their team won the Super Bowl against the Denver Broncos in 2014.

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four years, he starred as a wide receiver and kick returner for Stanford. After college, he was undrafted and signed as a free agent with Seattle in 2011. Baldwin would play with Seattle until he retired in 2019.

Baldwin traces his Filipino roots to his maternal grandmother Pica from Tacloban City. Baldwin's grandfather was stationed in the Philippines and they eventually moved to Florida. On

November 17, 2013—nine days after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, Baldwin entered the Seahawks game against the Minnesota Vikings and carried the Philippine flag upside down (with the red instead of the blue on top, done only during times of war.) Baldwin explained "We are fighting the devastation of Haiyan which has been worse than many war-torn regions of the world." Baldwin's

maternal family suffered property loss because of Haiyan.

Another Fil-Am who played in the Super Bowl is three-time Super Bowl champion Tedy Lacap Bruschi, who played for the New England Patriots. Bruschi won championships in Super Bowls XXXVI (2002), XXXVIII (2004), and XXXIX (2005) while losing in XXXI (1997) and XLII (2008).

Bruschi was born in San Francisco

and played college football at the University of Arizona. He was drafted by the Patriots in 1996 and played linebacker for New England until he retired in 2008. (He suffered a stroke in February 2025 and was able to play in October 2025.)

Bruschi is half-Filipino (the other half being Italian) through his mom Juanita Lacap, whose roots are from Pampanga. Bruschi's parents divorced when he was five years old. To honor his Mom, Bruschi uses her maiden name as his middle name.

Bruschi was a beast while playing for the Patriots. In Super Bowl XXXI against the Green Bay Packers, he registered three solo tackles and two sacks. In Super Bowl XXXVI against the St. Louis Rams, he registered four solo tackles. In Super Bowl XXXVIII against the Carolina Panthers, he registered four tackles, including two solo tackles. In Super Bowl XXXIX against the Philadelphia Eagles, he registered seven tackles, including six solo tackles plus one pass deflection. In Super Bowl XLII against the New York Giants, he registered eight tackles, including five solo tackles.

Jordan Norwood played for the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl L (2016), helping to defeat the Carolina Panthers.

Norwood was born in Honolulu and later moved to Pennsylvania. He played college football at Penn State and even played basketball for the Nittany Lions for one season. Despite receiving Big Ten honorable mention honors in his senior year, Norwood was not drafted. He was signed and

see SUPER BOWL next page



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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



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The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce names its new leaders for the new year.  
IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Elects New Generation of Leaders

**O**n January 19, 2026, I had the distinct privilege and honor to administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers and members of the board of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. I was so encouraged to witness the enthusiasm, energy and passion of the new leadership. I am confident more than ever that this new group

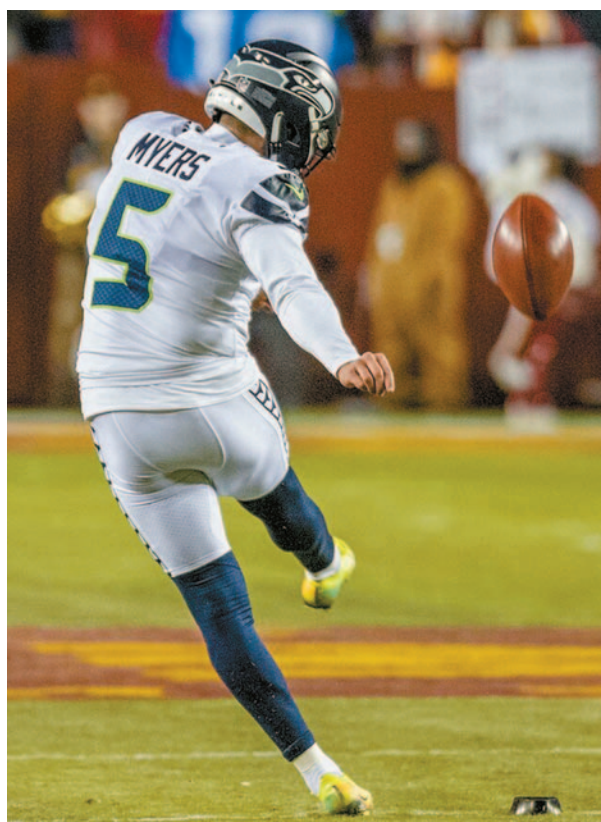
of young professional leaders will guide the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce with vigor and renewed direction that centers on helping and uplifting our Maui Filipino community. What impressed me the most about these new leaders is their humility, integrity, honesty, transparency and receptivity to wise counsel. After my brief conver-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 7



Doug Baldwin carries the football during game day play-action.

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Jason Myers kicks off after a touchdown.

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## Super Bowl ...

from p. 3

released by the Cleveland Browns (twice), the Philadelphia Eagles and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Denver

signed him in 2014 but spent the entire year on injured reserve. Norwood retired in 2017.

Jordan's mother Tiffany is half Filipina and half Black. On the website

see SUPER BOWL p.13



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# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## In My Sexy 60s and the Elections in 2026



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I happily learned Foodland offers a *kūpuna* discount on Thursdays (anyone over sixty is eligible). Good deal. Picked up some *poke* and Roselani Banana Mac Nut ice cream.

I'm more conscious of my age nowadays (never thought I'd be as old as I am now). I toyed with letting my hair grow back out just to see if I looked more like my father or my maternal grandfather. I first shaved my head last century so it's been a while since I've had a full head of hair—at one time I had enough for a ponytail.

But two Lenten Sundays, my locks didn't come back enough and someone observed my head looked like Molokini from behind.

Things just don't stay the same.

In July, my elementary school, Maui Christian Academy, marks its 70th anniversary. The alumni will be gathering. It was still Doris Todd Memorial Christian Day School in my time growing up in Pā'ia, and the teachers were all missionaries supported by their home churches and others on the mainland and Canada.

I recently went to First Hawaiian Bank on Ka'ahumanu Avenue and noticed the old Chart House / Hideaway; its parking lot and landscaping, is finally getting a makeover. I guess the long-expected Café O'Lei may be opening in the near future, threatening the *Pilipilocal* empire that is Tante's in Central Maui (Maui Sunset, Maui Beach and Waiehu Golf Course).

The old swap meet site has construction fencing so perhaps that field will be affordable housing units—plans talked about ever since the old County Fairgrounds were taken back by our local Big Five agribusiness.

A Lahaina fire victim mentioned the other day her family got one of the new homes in Waikapū—much of that area between old Waikapū and Wailuku were pasture lands when we were growing up.

As John wistfully sang, "There are places I remember, all my life, though some have changed ..."

And congested Pu'unēnē Avenue is getting some new sidewalks and additional storage and through lanes—something longtime Dream City residents, Little Manila folks and the faith communities and preschools along that connector road have been grousing about for many years.

Must be an election year.

Kaua'i and Maui Counties have Mayoral contests in gubernatorial election years. The Big Island and the City and County elect their chief executives in Presidential years.

Governor Josh Green is already on social media in his scrubs and posted a sign on a key wall at the corner of Papa and Kamehameha. Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke is seeking a second term based on her work constructing and redeveloping public preschool facilities and expanding digital access to rural areas, while the entrenched old boys, anti-status quo mob and cynical news bloggers pile on in favor of some anointed successor to the good doctor.

Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, whose district includes Maui County, will likely run for re-election, expecting to be part of an expected Democratic majority in that chamber. Neither senior U.S. Senator Brian Schatz nor Mazie Hirono will be on the ballot this year.

Meanwhile, former Judge

Richard Bissen will try to be only the third mayor to serve consecutive terms since Linda Crockett Lingle last century and Alan Arakawa's three terms in four elections. Upcountry Councilwoman Yuki Lei Sugimura is running to be the third woman to lead Maui County. Realtor P. Denise La Costa has also thrown her hat into the ring.

A lot of story lines reflect the continuing challenge of making this County live up to its motto: Nō Ka 'O'i. Housing. Water. Restoring Lahaina. Growing local food. Jobs. Affordability. Education. Cooperating with ICE.

And who will show up to vote for what issue or purpose?

The Maui County Council line up  
see DINENGDENG & PINAKBET p.7



Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke (right) and ILWU retiree Lydia Coloma.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN



I toyed with letting my hair grow back out just to see if I looked more like my father or my maternal grandfather ... my locks didn't come back enough and someone observed my head looked like Molokini from behind.

IMAGE COURTESY DANIELLE EVANGELISTA



At the 2025 Bayanihan Christmas event, Governor's Liaison Leon Bolosan, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, State Senator Troy Hashimoto, then-Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Director Kauano'e Batangan, Wailuku attorney Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Filipino community *kūpuna* Lydia Coloma.

IMAGE COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN



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## Is Not Everything ...

# Usong pa ba ang Harana?

Ehra Louise Guiwa | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2028

**P**aniligaw is the act of traditional Filipino courtship, a process where the man attempts to woo the woman through acts of service, *harana* (serenade) and gifts to overall seek approval from her family and to emphasize himself as a suitable partner. This is a mutual understanding between both parties; if the woman does not view the man as a potential partner, she has the right to decline. The title for this month's column, "*Usong pa ba ang Harana?*," comes from the song *Harana* by the band Parokya ni Edgar. Through this song, I became aware of the world of *paniligaw*.

The modern dating scheme focuses on building relationships through digital platforms like Instagram. It uses labels to determine the status of affection towards one another, such as the talking stage or situationship. This leads to relationships forming quickly but ending just as easily. What makes *paniligaw* so special, which is vastly different from modern dating, is the building of a raw connection without the use of technology and, most importantly, the demonstration of a man's character. As Valentine's Day approaches, let us hear from our youth about their thoughts on *paniligaw* and how they express their love.

**Kimberly Baniqued**, a student at Lahainaluna High School, comments, "To me, *paniligaw* shows that someone is willing to be patient and put in consistent effort, not just for a few days, but over time." Similarly, Kimberley relates this to her love language, Acts of Service. She explains "It is easy to say you care but it feels more real when you prove it through effort," and it is the same amount of effort that makes *paniligaw* stand out to her. From simply checking in on someone you love or helping them feel less overwhelmed in their daily life, "it can communicate love in a way that words sometimes cannot." Compared to modern dating, Kimberley expresses its flexibility yet its lack of commitment saying, "People can start talking quickly through social media and relationships can move forward without as much time spent proving commitment" but modern dating provides a way where either boy or girl can make the first move.

A student at Maui High School, **Jaden Agpaola**, describes *paniligaw*

as a way of true dedication and devotion. He says, "acts of *paniligaw* such as serenading can truly show the amount of effort that is put into relationships compared to modern-dating culture where I would say social media and online presence plays a big role in relationships." Nowadays, the main form of communication amongst teenagers has become social media platforms instead of engaging in face-to-face conversations. To Jaden, "deep conversations or enjoying each other's company" is a way he expresses his love language. Quality time is about "being present and showing attention" explains Jaden.

Baldwin High School student, **Ceana Rayne Nerona**, acknowledges the beauty in *paniligaw*, most especially, in *harana* (serenade). Ceana states, "Serenading is barely seen throughout modern culture serenading to a woman is a definite situation of feelings and emotions poured into a song to win a girl's heart." Many songs in the Philippines and in America revolve around the topic of love whether it be longing for an individual or simply the feeling of being in love, yet it is very uncommon to see songs of love professed to another individual. She strongly emphasizes the involvement of family saying, "The idea of admitting to a lady along with their family, keeping in mind that their family is also a big part of the approval itself," shows a vulnerable side of *paniligaw*. Compared to modern dating which takes out the surreal feeling making it seem as if "having a girlfriend is no big deal," Ceana believes *paniligaw* creates deeper emotional feeling. Like Kimberley, Acts of Service is a way Ceana expresses her love.

"Even the corny gestures that make it feel sincere and intentional" is what makes *paniligaw* admired by Renier Santiago, a student at Maui High School. Renier says, "I show my love by genuinely caring for others and supporting them in any way I can." Whether it be through quality time, acts of service or merely saying uplifting words is how Renier expresses his love. He does not bound himself to one love language but creates a mixture of all of them because love has no bounds. Modern dating heavily relies on the use of technology making

see GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING p.15

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**U.S. Congresswoman Jill Tokuda** dropped by the Binhi at Ani table at the Civic Center where volunteers collected Tulong for Lahaina grant applications.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

will be changing. The nine-member Council currently includes three members with Filipino roots. See if you can name the *kababayan*.

Council Chair Alice Lee is leaving to reinvigorate the non-profit she headed before returning to elective office. Maui Airports manager (and former local Hawaiian Airlines guy) Marvin Moniz, who incidentally married my high school classmate Jocelyn, has thrown his hat into the ring. I'm sure there will be others seeking that open Wailuku residential Council

seat.

Kamehameha Schools Pukalani alum Kauanoe Batangan, appointed by Mayor Bissen when the Council could not agree on a replacement for their late colleague Tasha Kama, is finishing the term. The Stanford-Columbia-Tokyo degreed local boy plans to win the Council seat representing his childhood community. Carol Kamekona, who has run for the seat in the past and was one of the applicants for the vacancy, has also pulled papers. Another applicant

for the vacancy was longtime Maui Filipino community leader Virgilio Agcolicol—but happily retired Manong Leo has not yet requested nomination papers.

As I write this, incumbent councilmembers Shane Sinenci (East Maui), Nohe U'u-Hodgins (Pā'ia-Ha'ikū) and Tamara Paltin (West Maui) apparently will be seeking another two-year term. South Maui's Tom Cook, Lāna'i's Gabe Johnson and Molokai's Keani Rawlings-Fernandez haven't pulled papers yet.

With at least three seats with no incumbent, the direction and control of the County Council is on the ballot.

So far, for Maui's legislative delegation, only South Maui incumbent Terez (T. Amato) Amato and Canoe district (East Maui-Molokai-Lāna'i) representative Mahina Poepoe pulled papers. So far, two Greens (Jackie Keefe and Pa'ele Kiakona) and a Democrat (Ashley Olsen who already filed nomination papers) are gunning for lawmaker Elle Cochran (the only Filipina in the delegation)'s West Maui-Waihe'e seat. Newcomer Travis James Bumanglag has pulled papers as a Republican for the Wailuku House seat currently held by Tyson Miyake.

Along with Miyake, incumbents Kyle Yamashita (Upcountry) and Justin Woodson (Kahului) haven't begun campaigning just yet. If he chooses, Troy Hashimoto will be running for his first full term as Central Maui's State Senator (Senators Lynn DeCoite and Angus McKelvey were re-elected to four-year terms in 2024.)

But then again, maybe there will be no midterm elections this Fall. With an ongoing Middle East war and unrest in various parts of the United States, perhaps the elections will be postponed until a more acceptable time. However, in the "wars and rumors of wars" scriptures (Matthew 24:6, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9), Jesus advises his followers not to be alarmed by global conflicts. Those events simply reflect the "beginning of sorrows" rather than an immediate sign of the end. While those things must occur, they are not immediate harbingers of the apocalypse.

So why not have an election? ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku. He attended Doris Todd Memorial Christian Day School through the eighth grade before enrolling at Maui High School.



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

sation with them at the swearing in ceremony, I can sense they have the heart of service and Christ-like attitude with the divine virtues of the "Fruit of the Spirit" and they are a force for good.

Following below is an inspiring message from Ms. Grace Sales, President of Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce as she takes the organization to a new height.

### Building Our Future Together

"It is a true honor to serve as President of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. Our community is strong, resilient, and full of promise—Filipinos make up an estimated 46,000 to 47,000 residents in Maui County, nearly 28% of the island's population, and approximately 26% of Hawai'i's population statewide. These numbers remind us that we are not just a community, we are a force for positive change, growth, and opportunity.

As your President, my mission is clear: to steer the Chamber, empower our members, and turn our collective strengths into measurable impact. Leadership is about guiding, inspiring, and connecting people to do more than they could alone. Together, we can build stronger businesses, stronger relationships, and stronger Maui.

*Over the next two to five years, we will focus on action that matters. Every committee, every event, and every initiative will have purpose. Membership will be meaningful—through business mixers, social media spotlights, podcasts in English, Tagalog and Ilokano, member discounts and connections that link Filipino and non-Filipino businesses.*

*We will also listen and learn. Short surveys and feedback from our members will guide our priorities, helping us solve real challenges and seize real opportunities.*

*Our greatest strength lies in our network—officers, members, and partners who are deeply connected across business, government, and the community. By working together with focus, accountability, and heart, the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce will not only uplift Filipino businesses, but also celebrate our culture, empower the next generation, and help shape a thriving, inclusive Maui.*

*The future is ours to build—together." ✨*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

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# Community... In Action



**Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is open for your celebrations.**

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**AnyKine Sisig Challenge® during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Climb the Greased Pole!® at the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

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**Cultural entertainment by Maui Cordillera Ethnics at the Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Lechon demonstration during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**The 2025 Barrio Fiesta® opening ceremonies.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

## BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your special events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented on Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,400 (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and a \$500 security deposit or from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,200 (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and a \$500 security deposit.



# COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

On Sundays, the Center can be rented from 1:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,050. (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and a \$500 security deposit. If alcohol is provided and/or served, there is an additional fee of \$300 and you

must hire two licensed bartenders. If alcohol is BYOB or placed in coolers, there is an additional fee of \$500. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays by appointment

only. Telephone (808) 877-7880.  
**57th Annual Barrio Fiesta®** will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026 (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 23, 2026 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. There will be food, entertainment, culture, exhibits, contests (with prizes up to \$500!), presentations, lechon tasting, drawings and more food!  
If you are interested in becoming a Food Vendor, please contact chairperson





**Barrio Fiesta Balut Challenge® during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Barrio Wear Showdown®, female division during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Cultural entertainment by Naragsak during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Kabataan Art Party® during the 2025 Barrio Fiesta®.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**The crowning of Miss Barrio Fiesta® 2025 Kyrah Navarro Pagdilao.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**The Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i assisted with the Bayanihan Feeding Program.**

PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE GUMPAL

Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at (808) 276-8861.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor or Business Vendor, please contact co-chairperson Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100.

If you are interested in becoming a Miss Barrio Fiesta contestant, contact Edward Garcia at (808) 269-2777.

If you are interested in providing Filipino cultural entertainment, contact Alfredo Evangelista.

If your hotel is interested in nominating an Outstanding Housekeeper (male and female), contact Brianne Zamora at (808) 269-8956.

Contests are expected to include Pabitin at the Barrio Fiesta!®, the Barrio Fiesta Voice®, Do the Sungka!®, Climb

the Greased Pole!®, Kabataan Art Party®, Eat Da Pansit®, AnyKine Sisig Challenge®, Barrio Fiesta Balut Challenge® and Barrio Wear Showdown!®. If you are interested to participate in any of these contests, contact Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100.

**Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament** will be on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at The Dunes at Maui Lani Golf Course. A Platinum Sponsorship (eight golfers) is available at \$1500 while a Gold Sponsorship (four golfers) is available at \$800. Tee sponsorships are available at \$250 and cash donations are also accepted.

Those who submitted their paid application by Feb. 6, 2026 will be entered into an early bird drawing sponsored by

Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura. Island Honda is sponsoring a \$25,000 hole-in-one prize at Hole #17. There will be a Jack-Pot at hole #3 (additional entry fee of \$20) and a Jack-Pot at hole #8 (additional entry fee of \$20). There will be Closest to the Pin prizes on holes #3 and #8 and On-The-Green contests on holes #6 and #17. The grand prize will be donated by Philippine Airlines (economy airfare to Manila).

The deadline is Feb. 15 but don't wait until then as this tournament is expected to be sold out again.

All net proceeds from the golf tourna-

ment funds Binhi at Ani's annual scholarship programs. In 2025, Binhi at Ani awarded \$31,000 in scholarship grants to twenty-three outstanding 2025 high school graduates.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairperson Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100 or AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com or Binhi at Ani president Arnel Alvarez at (808) 357-0748 or Lenra1268@gmail.com.

**Bayanihan Feeding Program** provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu see COMMUNITY IN ACTION p.10





**Jumping for joy at the 2025 Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.**

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



**Angelina Abapo entertains during the 2025 Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament luncheon.**

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center classes are held.**

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



**2025 Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament team winners claim their prizes.**

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



**Scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors at Binhi at Ani's Seed and Harvest Dinner on July 9, 2026.**

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY

Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi) and Maui Adult Day Care.

Through Jan. 31, 2026, a total of 41,407 lunches have been distributed.

There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. Create a Team by contacting Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981. 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 a partnership with Maui Food Bank and is supported by grants from Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i and Nareit Hawai'i.



**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** classes are continuing. Offered in partnership with the County of Maui, Office on Aging, classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.; from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.. Enhance@Fitness is an exercise program for those over 50 years of age that improves cardiovascular fitness, strength, flexibility and balance. Since July 2022 and through May 2025,

there have been 944 classes with seventy-five participants. 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.

**Scholarship.** Applications for Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program for graduating 2026 high school students are now available through the portal: <https://baa2026application.paperform.co/>. The deadline is 4 p.m. HST on Friday, March 13, 2026. (Late submissions will be automatically disqualified.) The eligibility requirements are: 1. must be a resident of the island of Maui; 2.

must be scheduled to graduate in 2026 from a high school on Maui with a cumulative grade point average (through the 1st semester of 2025) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and 3. must complete the application as instructed and provide all required documents. An independent panel of judges will base their decisions on grade point average (30%), activities, awards, honors, and employment (30%), a short essay (30%), and letters of recommendation (10%). The recipient and/or a family member must be present at the awarding ceremony (The Seed and Harvest Dinner) on July 9, 2026. For more information, contact Scholarship Chairperson Edward Garcia at (808) 269-2777.



February is here—the official Month of Love! That means Valentine’s Day is right around the corner. Are you ready? Or are you one of those people who suddenly remembers on the morning of February 14 and ends up buying the last slightly wilted bouquet at the store? No judgment... it happens. Of course, Valentine’s Day is also the perfect time to practice your poetry skills. For example:

*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
I wrote you a poem, Google helped too.  
I had a better line, but I forgot it too.  
Pretty good, right? Let me try another one:*

# Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
I forgot the chocolates, so this poem will do.*

*But I'll bring flowers, and maybe musubis too.*

Okay maybe I should stop while I'm ahead before I accidentally start a professional poetry career. But if you find yourself stuck trying to impress your Valentine, feel free to reach

out—I might have a few more rhymes in my back pocket.

Whatever your plans are this Valentine’s Day, don’t forget the classic move: a flower or bouquet for your Valentine. It’s simple, thoughtful, and almost guaranteed to brighten their day—or at least earn you some bonus points.

Happy Valentine’s Day! 🌸

Shout out to our February birthday celebrants: Leilani Maglaya Corpuz, Renie Garo Menor, Yuki Lei Sugimura, Zina Andrade-Nefalar, Kyra and Kea Lagpacan and Esmeralda “Esmie” Damo. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

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

ANGEL LOOKS DOWN at her mug, her reflection trembling on the coffee’s surface. “It’s strange, isn’t it? How their choices still echo in ours.”

Michael nods slowly. “Maybe that’s why we were supposed to find each other. To finish what they couldn’t—but in our own way.”

She looks up at him then, her *puso* (heart) catching at the softness in his *mata* (eyes). There is no uncertainty there this time, only quiet resolve.

“I don’t know what this is yet,” Angel says, her voice steady but softened by honesty. “But I know I don’t want to let the past decide it for us.”

Michael *ngiti* (smiles)—a small, real *timan* (smile) reaching all the way to his *mata* (eyes). It isn’t loud or dramatic, it is certain. “Then let’s not,” he says.

He reaches across the *lamesa* (table), his fingers brushing hers. The touch is simple, deliberate and warm. In that quiet moment, something long held back finally shifts, opening space for what can begin again.

Outside, the clouds begin to part, letting a thin ray of sunlight spill across the café *lamisaan* (table).

For the first time in days, Angel lets herself breathe—really breathe. Whatever the past has taken, the present is quietly offering back.

Days slip gently into weeks, each one softening the weight that had once hung between them. What began as awkward conversation over coffee becomes late-night calls, quiet walks after work, and laughter that feels easier each time.

Sometimes, Angel catches herself

studying him when he isn’t looking—the tilt of his *pahiyum* (smile), the way his brow creases when he tries to find the right words. There is a gentleness to Michael that feels both unfamiliar and safe, like something she hadn’t realized she’d been missing.

One evening, they find themselves at the overlook above Kahului, the ocean stretching endlessly beneath the fading sky. The sun had already sunk past the horizon, leaving a wash of violet and gold mirroring the quiet pulse between them.

“It’s strange,” Michael says, his *bores* (voice) low, almost carried away by the wind. “I used to think love was something that just... happens. Like a moment you fall into. But now I think it’s more like this view—something you have to climb toward, even when you’re not sure what you’ll see when you get there.”

Angel *isem* (smiles) faintly, turning to look at him. “You’re saying this is our climb?”

He meets her gaze, the corners of his *bibig* (lips) lifting. “If you’re still willing to take it with me.”

She doesn’t answer right away. Instead, she looks out at the darkening

sea, remembering the ache of her *Inang* (mother’s) words, the way the past almost stole this from them. Then, softly, she says, “I think we’ve already started.”

A breeze sweeps through, carrying the scent of salt and plumeria. Without thinking, Michael reaches for her hand. She doesn’t pull away.

They stand that way for a long time—*gamat* (hands) entwined, the world around them fading to quiet. It isn’t a perfect beginning, not a fairytale but something real and fragile and entirely theirs.

Finally, Angel speaks, her voice barely above the wind. “You know what my *Nanay* (mom) said after the call?”

Michael turns to her. “What?”  
“She said maybe love doesn’t always come in the right order. Maybe it just waits until we’re ready to recognize it.”

He *ngiti* (smiles) then, the kind that reaches his *mata* (eyes). “Then I’m glad we’re finally ready.”

Angel squeezes his *kamay* (hand), her *puso*

(heart) steady for the first time in a long while. Above them, the first stars begin to appear, scattered across the mauve sky—tiny reminders that even after darkness, there’s always something that finds its way back to light.

The morning after their night at the overlook, Angel’s phone buzzes before dawn. The screen flashes with her *Inang* (mother’s) name.

What is it now? Is it something to worry about?

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. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer on Maui.



English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Table	Lamesa	Lamisaan	Lamisa	Hapag	Lamisa	Lamesa
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Voice	Boses	Timek	Tingog	Tingog	Boses	Bosis
Lips	Labi	Bibig	Ngabil	Bibig	Bibig	Labi
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Lima	Gamat	Duhol	Kamut

# Ti Biag ken Pammati

## "Life and Faith"



There are more people praying today.  
PHOTO: LAWRNECE PASCUA VIA CHATGPT AI



Our Youth who attended the National Catholic Youth Congress at Long Beach, California. A good start meeting youth in different places and experiencing different cultures. They were high in the spirit. God bless them.  
PHOTO COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO



When we restart we feel the love from Jesus and reset our life and faith for 2026. Let God continue to guide us through the year!  
PHOTO: LAWRNECE PASCUA VIA OPEN ART AI.

# Easter: A Time to Reset Our "Life and Faith!"

Deacon Patrick Constantino

**W**e need to look at our life from beginning to present so we can increase our faith and receive God's graces forever!

Easter serves as a profound, symbolic and practical time to reset, offering a pause for personal renewal, reflection and new beginnings. It represents a do-over or reboot that encourages shifting focus from stress to joy, embracing hope, and nurturing mental or spiritual health.

### Key Aspects of Easter Reset:

1—SPIRITUAL RENEWAL. Christians view it as a time to reflect on Jesus' resurrection, embracing grace and renewing the mind. Some of the things we can do are attend retreats, conferences, workshops, movies, read books, and many things we can think of.

2—MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL PAUSE. It acts as a moment to step away from daily noise, stress and work pressure to focus on self-care. Our idea is to change our lives to do

something than doing nothing! Change comes when we do something. At times I like to get away from everything. I need quiet time by myself and enjoy music, songs, nature, beaches and quiet places where I can pray my Rosary, say the Mysteries and Pray our Divine Mercy Chaplet every day.

Spiritual renewal of the mind is continuous, a daily process of transforming one's world view, thoughts and attitudes to align with God's Word rather than worldly patterns. It involves actively replacing lies with truth, allowing the Holy Spirit to rewire our thinking to reflect Christ. This inner transformation leads to personal growth and spiritual maturity. Key aspects of this process include:

1. CONSTANT TRANSFORMATION: It is not a one-time event, but a day-by-day renewal.
2. REPLACING THOUGHT PATTERNS: Actively replacing negative, worldly, or fearful thoughts

- with the truth of scripture.
3. ACTIONABLE STEPS: Regular Bible study, prayer, meditation on God's Word, and memorizing scripture are essential practices.
4. INNER-OUTWARD CHANGE: Unlike behavior modification, this is an internal change of heart and mind that naturally results in new, godly actions.
5. BENEFITS: A renewal mind enables the ability to discern God's will, find freedom from sinful habits, and live with peace rather than anxiety.

These are some of the scriptures that can help us reset and reboot our way of Life and change our Faith to receive God's Graces! Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." Make up your mind to change and feel new with the Spirit! Ephesians 4:23: "...to be renewed in the spirit of your minds." When you believe in God, His Spirit will take care of you. 2 Corinthians 4:16: "... yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." Just by reading scriptures and praying day by day, we are being renewed. My hope and prayers, suggestions, tools, recommendations, to you that these will help you with your resetting and rebooting your Life and Faith, so that in forty days and Holy Week, you can make the changes in your Life for the good of your Soul and Heart to love God more, yourselves and people around. Let us make it all new and rejoice this coming Easter Day! Rejoice and be glad, for you are renewed in the rising Lord on Easter Day and beyond! Happy Easter and God Bless! Jesus, I trust in you! Amen!

### We begin Lent with Matthew 4: 1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and

forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve." Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Today's Gospel brings us into the desert with Jesus

Jesus willingly enters the wilderness and faces his own demise. By doing this, He shows us how to trust and place complete faith in our Lord. When we face adversity or struggle with things in our lives, often, they are very places where God is working most closely within us. Christ's ability to persevere is truly a source of hope for us. By trusting in God's plan, just as Jesus did, we can feel hope instead of despair, courage in moments of weakness and joy amid life's most challenging struggles. As we begin our Easter journey and reset and reboot our self and others,



Our great grandchildren, Halia Garcia (from left), Quin Tavares and Kalyla Tavares who attended the NCYC, were changed and filled with the Holy Spirit!  
PHOTO COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.15

## I Love You More

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog" | PHOTOS: LIZA PIERCE

Children's books hold a special place in my heart. Their words may be simple and their illustrations colorful and playful but the messages they carry often stay with us for a lifetime. As a parent, some of my fondest memories are the quiet moments spent reading to my children before bedtime. Those simple moments—snuggled together with a book—become treasured family traditions.

One book that always warms my heart is *I Love You More* by Laura Duksta. The first time I read it, it reminded me of a few other beloved children's classics that many parents know and love: *Guess How Much I Love You*, *I Love You Forever* and *Good Night Moon*. To me, it felt like the sweetness of those stories all rolled into one.

I remember reading *I Love You More* often when my children were little. It quickly became one of those books we reached for again and again. The story is simple but touching: a mother and her child take turns describing just how big their love is. Each page becomes a playful "competition" to see who can express the greater love.

And as any parent knows, children can be wonderfully imaginative when they try to measure something as big as love.

The child begins with sweet and funny comparisons:

I love you more than the longest lollipop ever lasted.

I love you louder than the loudest rocket ship ever blasted.

Then the parent responds with love that stretches even farther:

I love you higher than the highest bird ever flew.

I love you taller than the tallest tree ever grew.

The story continues in this charming back-and-forth rhythm, each one trying to outdo the other with bigger and bigger expressions of love. It is playful, imaginative, and incredibly

heartwarming.

What makes this book unique is its clever format. The story begins from one side of the book with the parent's perspective and when you reach the middle, you flip the book over to read the child's perspective. In a way, it beautifully shows love between a parent and child goes in both directions—and perhaps never really ends.

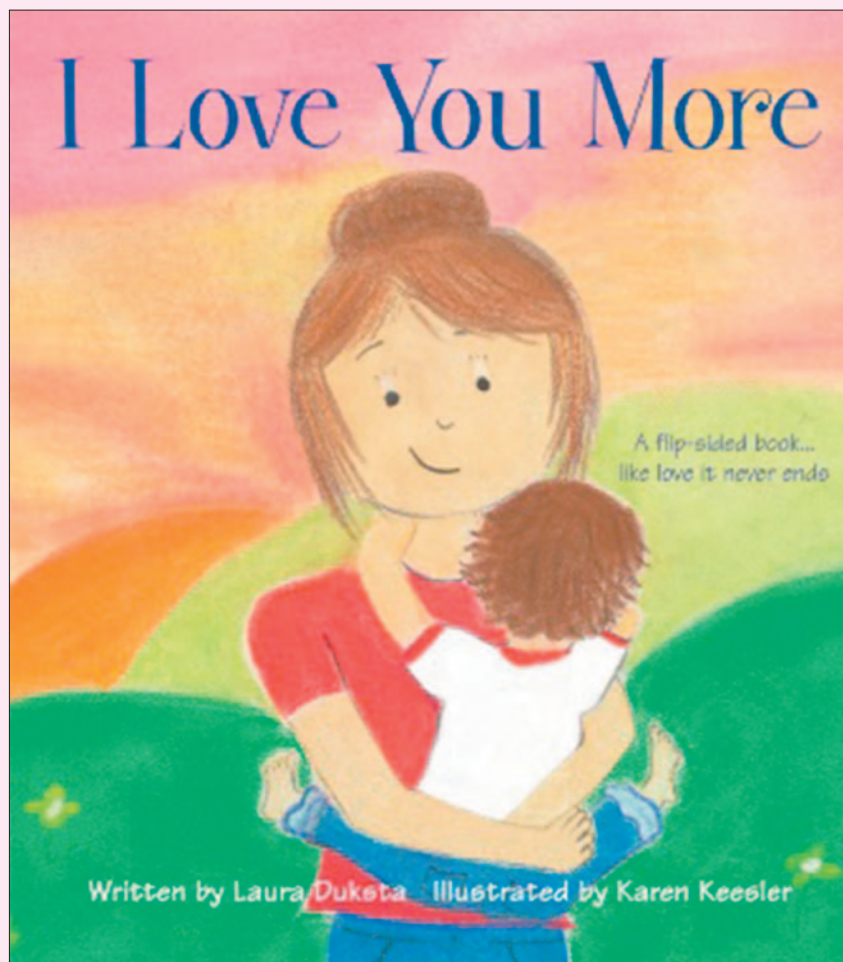
The rhyming words are simple yet rich with feeling. The language flows naturally, making it a joy to read aloud. Parents who regularly read bedtime stories know how important that rhythm can be. A good children's book invites you to slow down, savor the words and enjoy the moment together.

The illustrations are just as lovely. Warm and inviting, they add another layer of emotion to the story and help bring the words to life. It is the kind of book that encourages parents and children to cuddle close and read together.

The author, Laura Duksta, has often described herself as an "Ambassador of Love." Her mission through her books, school programs, and talks is to encourage children and adults alike to express love and appreciation more openly. The book itself began as a self-published project inspired by her desire to share that message, and it eventually grew into a bestseller that has reached families around the world.

For families, reading time can be one of the most meaningful parts of the day. In a world that often feels busy and rushed, sitting down with a child and sharing a story creates a moment of connection. It tells our children that they are important, that they are loved, and that our time together matters.

February, of course, is the month when we celebrate love on Valentine's Day. While many people think of romantic love during this season, it is also a perfect time to remember



*I Love You More* is a wonderful book to add to your family reading time. It's the kind of story that invites laughter, cuddles, and perhaps a few extra "I love you's" before bedtime.

COURTESY IMAGE

the deep and unconditional love between parents and children.

Sometimes the simplest words say the most.

And sometimes, the biggest love can be found in the pages of a small children's book.

If you have little ones—or even grandchildren—*I Love You More* is a wonderful book to add to your family reading time. It's the kind of story that invites laughter, cuddles and perhaps a few extra "I love you's" before bedtime.

And those are the moments our children will remember long after the story ends. ✨

**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 Rainbows; 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*.



## Super Bowl ...

from p.4

of photographer Levi Norwood, he is quoted as saying: "I think I realized I was mixed pretty early on. Though, my skin is dark and I probably look more 'black' than anything else, I was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i, amongst my, mostly, Filipino side of our family. My mom is half Filipina and half Black, while my dad is 100% Black. I can remember in my teenage years when I was in an interracial relationship with a Caucasian girl. One of my female, African American classmates asked me why I didn't want to date someone that looked like my mom—as if my mom would be offended by me bringing home someone that wasn't black. My classmate, obviously,

didn't realize I was part black and part Filipino, nor had she ever seen my black and Filipina mother before. Basically, any relationship I could find myself in would be interracial—which is fine by me. I feel that I identify with being both black and Filipino. My outward appearance, unlike some of my siblings, leans toward African American rather than Asian, so I suppose that internal identification could be ever so slightly stronger."

As the punt returner for the Broncos, Norwood excelled during the Super Bowl. He returned a punt for sixty-one yards, which at that time was the longest punt return in a Super Bowl.

Another Fil-Am NFL professional who played in the Super Bowl that was born in Hawai'i is Aaron Francis-

see SUPER BOWL p.15



**Tedy Bruschi**, born in San Francisco, Calif., is of Filipino and Italian descent—he gets his Filipino blood from his mother's side. Bruschi won three Super Bowls with the New England Patriots.

PHOTO: VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, NFL\_LIVE\_ESPN-WEEKEND2010-026.JPG: JEFF KERN DERIVATIVE WORK: RANZAG (TALK) - NFL\_LIVE\_ESPNWEEK-END2010-026.JPG

## Sakada Offspring



Melanie Sarmiento



Melanie's Family



Guillermo Barut

This month's featured Sakada offspring, Melanie Sarmiento considers her Dad, a 1946 Sakada, as a person who practiced sustainability even before that word became a popular word.

Melanie was born on Maui. She attended Makawao Grade School, Maui High School and the University of Hawai'i Maui College. She received a degree in Accounting.

She works for a non-profit company in Human Resources. Her husband Darren Sarmiento works at a government job as a trainer. They have one daughter who lives on the mainland with her husband and a son.

Melanie is a member of the Baptist Church. She enjoys exercising, hiking and cooking. She also enjoys reading mysteries, romance and the Bible.

Melanie has an older brother,

## Melanie Sarmiento

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY SARMIENTO 'OHANA

William Barut, and an older sister who lives in Honolulu with her husband. They have two children and two grandchildren who are living on the mainland. William is a retired firefighter on Maui and is married to Rhonda Barut. They have a son, Stephen Barut who lives on the mainland and just got married to Ximena Barut.

Guillermo Barut was Melanie's father who was born in Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on February 7, 1909. He came to Hawai'i in 1946 on board the *S.S. Maunawili* as one of the thousands of *Sakadas* who were recruited to come and work in the sugar and pineapple plantations.

Guillermo first landed on Hawai'i island before heading to Maui. He worked at HC&S for a short while and lived at McGerrow Camp in Pu'unēne which was located across the Sugar Mill. He then transferred to work at the Maui Pine Plantation in Hāli'imaile, Maui. He first worked as a laborer and earned his way up to become a supervisor (*luna*) until he retired in 1971. He lived in Hāli'imaile Camp where many other *Sakadas* lived.

Hāli'imaile was a very rustic, peaceful community where everybody knew everyone and took care of each other. They looked after each other especially with the young children. They shared their vegetables, fruits, fish that they caught, and even *limu* (seaweed) that they gathered from the beaches. The Hāli'imaile community was one big 'ohana (family). The Hāli'imaile Filipino Clubhouse was the center of parties and fun activities where many of the people from the outside communities joined in especially during Christmas and New Year celebrations.

In 1962, Guillermo was interested in looking for a wife and wanted to go back to the Philippines. It so happened there was a lady next door to Guillermo who had an unmarried sister in the Philippines. Her name was Cornelia Gabriel. So she introduced her to Guillermo through letters. So she and Guillermo became pen pals. In 1963, he left for the Philippines to meet Cora face to face. Cora met him at the Manila Airport. As they met, there was no doubt in both their minds they were soulmates. With no time wasted, they had a Civil Marriage on November 10, 1963. After the wedding, they went straight to the Immigration Office in Manila to work on the paperwork for Cora to come to Hawai'i. On December 28, 1963, Guillermo and Cora left the Philippines, arriving on Maui on January 1, 1964.

Melanie had this to say about her Dad: *My Dad always thought about our future, his family, even when we were just growing up and didn't realize it at the time. Long before 'sustainability' became a common idea, he was already living it. He taught us, not through words but through the way he lived, to waste less and make the most of what we had. I remember him tending to a garden, recycling what he could and raising chickens for food and eggs. Those everyday choices were his way of caring for us. Looking back now, I realize how much we continue to benefit from his foresight, his values and the quiet investments he made in our lives.*

William also had these heartwarming words about his Dad: *My Dad was a quiet, smart and very knowledgeable man. He was the one who helped me with my schoolwork when I was younger. He helped everyone with their tax preparation even in his old age. He raised me up really well.*

Unfortunately, Guillermo passed away on February 28, 2001.

Presently, Cora still lives in the same house she and Guillermo lived in with their children. She enjoys visiting their children and grandchildren here on Maui as well as those living on the mainland. ✨

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo both worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy enjoys being with other retirees in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. Whenever she can, she joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of

her time as Lector and choir member at both Christ The King Catholic Church in Kahului and St. Ann Catholic Church in Waihe'e. She enjoys being with her granddaughters after school. She also enjoys writing, reading and gardening in her spare time.



Stephen and Ximena Barut Wedding with Family.





**Jordan Norwood plays** for the Denver Broncos. His mother Tiffany is half Filipina and half Black.

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## Super Bowl ...

from p. 13

co. Francisco was born in Lā'ie, played high school football at Kahuku High School. After starring for BYU, he went undrafted in 2005. He was signed by the Arizona Cardinals and released, signed with the New York Jets and released. He was re-signed by the Cardinals, with whom he played until 2009. He was later signed by the

Indianapolis Colts, the Carolina Panthers, the Detroit Lions and the Tennessee Titans, who released him in 2012.

In Super Bowl XLIII (2009) against the Pittsburgh Steelers, he was the defensive back against Santonio Holmes, who caught the game winning touchdown. Francisco had one solo tackle and one pass deflected in that Super Bowl game.

Super Bowl LIX (2025) featured  
see **SUPER BOWL** back page



## Is Not Everything ... | from p. 6

it emotionally draining. Renier opens a new perspective by explaining the downside of using social media to form relationships. "Simple things start to affect how you feel about someone, like calling each other but sitting in silence or texting without warmth or effort, which can make you feel like they don't care anymore."

Through these student responses, one thing remains extremely clear: effort and intention matter! Love is such an incredible thing that can be expressed in numerous ways, *paniligaw* shows a unique and vulnerable side to our human nature, it emphasizes building connection by taking things slowly. Their responses show even if the way young people meet may evolve, people still desire genuineness. While late-night *haranas* under someone's window have turned into face-time



calls, expressions of love change with each generation. Although *paniligaw* is not as common as it used to be maybe it just needs a little push for our teenagers to give it a try. ✨

**Google® Is Not Everything ...** is a monthly column authored by high school students. The column's title emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Ehra Louise Guiwa**, a Sophomore at Maui High School. She is the President of Sabers of Law (Maui High's Mock Trial Club), one of the Executive Vice Presidents for Student Government, Historian in the Key Club, and a student of eskrima under Doce Pares Multi-Style Hawai'i. Ehra Louise is in the Law and Public Safety pathway at Maui High and aspires to be a U.S senator. In her free time, she enjoys sewing, baking, volunteering at church, spending time with family and friends, and exploring. She is the only daughter of Merlyn Guiwa and Reymund Guiwa.

## Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 12

let us not worry about the quantity of people we can change but the quality of people we can be examples to, and make them believe in our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter! Amen. ✨

**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-seven 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-four years. They are



Picture of our family Saints at the NCCY Conference.

IMAGE COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO

blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.



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Aaron Francisco is another Fil-Am NFL professional that was born in Hawai'i who played in the Super Bowl.

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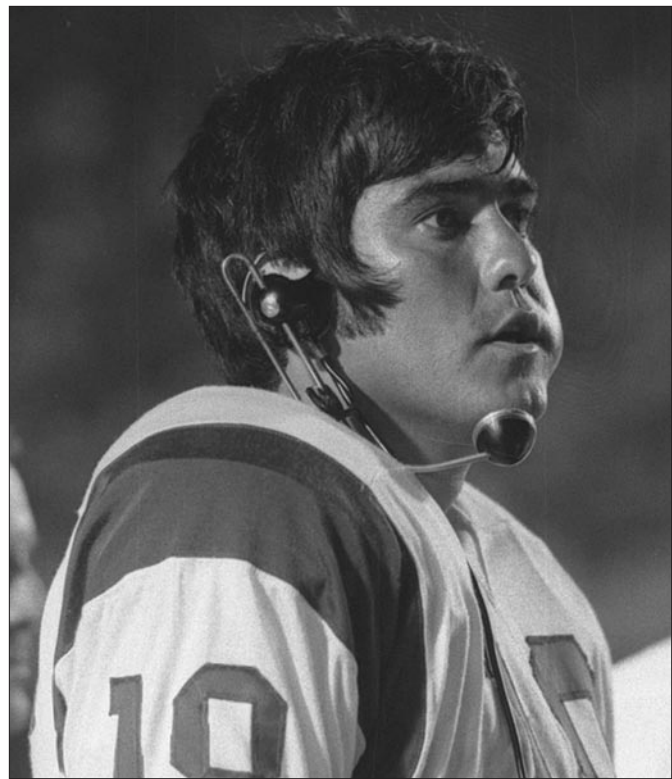
Super Bowl LIX in 2025 featured Fil-Am player Nikko Remigio on the Kansas City Chiefs, who lost to the Philadelphia Eagles.

IMAGE COURTESY LAWRENCE PASCUA VIA PIXELLA AI IMAGE GENERATOR



Roman Gabriel in action.

PHOTO: SAM SPINA, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Roman Gabriel on the sidelines.

PHOTO: ART ROGERS, LOS ANGELES TIMES, CC BY 4.0, [HTTPS://CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG/LICENSES/BY/4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Super Bowl ...

from p. 15

Fil-Am player Nikko Remigio on the Kansas City Chiefs, who lost to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Remigio was born in Orange California. His *Pinoy* roots are through his father, whose roots come from Muntinlupa and Iloilo. Remigio attended the University of California, Berkeley before transferring to Fresno State, earning honors as a wide receiver and punt returner.

At Berkeley, Remigio wrote a first person narrative for the school newspaper: "I love being Filipino: The family dynamic, the music, the dancing and the get-togethers—where you know there's going to be like a thou-

sand trays of *lumpia* and massive pots of rice to go with pounds of meat and fried fish—and the next morning you know we're going to heat those leftovers up, fry an egg and make that a Filipino breakfast. I'm all about it. I took a trip to the Philippines with my dad, my brothers and my *lolo* (grandfather) a few years ago, and it felt good to go back to the motherland to be where your family comes from. At the end of the day, it is considered a Third World country, but I loved just being there to get a new perspective and to connect with my relatives that are still over there. I know I stuck out as a mixed kid from America, but I still felt that sense of belonging I have longed for—I'd love to go back again. Because my mom's side of the family lives on the East coast, I have been exposed more to my Filipino side."

Remigio was not drafted in the 2023 draft and signed as a free agent with the Chiefs. During the Super Bowl, Remigio contributed with three kick returns totaling eighty-four yards (averaging 28 yards, with a long of 35) and one punt return of five yards.

Remigio's 2025 season was cut short due to an injury.

Although he never played in a Super Bowl, Roman Gabriel was the first Fil-Am NFL player. Gabriel was born in North Carolina; his father immigrated from the Philippines. He played college ball at North Carolina State University and was an Academic All-American.

He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in

1962 in the NFL draft (#2 overall) and the Oakland Raiders in the AFL draft (#1 overall). The quarterback decided to play for the Rams, where he had a stellar ten-year career, owning many of the passing records at that time. Gabriel was later traded to the Philadelphia Eagles in 1973 and retired in 1977.

Gabriel died in 2024 and he is recognized for opening the doors for Filipinos in the NFL albeit Gabriel never played in the Super Bowl. ✨

Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a lifetime fan of the Raiders. He did cheer for the Rams early on and watched Roman Gabriel throw passes to Jack Snow. His wife Bessy is an avid Seattle Seahawks fan.

