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FIL-AM CIVIC ACTION INTERNATIONAL CROWNS 2027 FIL-AM NEVADA USA QUEENS

By Jo Han Sayson,
PHLV Radio

LAS VEGAS — Fil-Am Civic Action International (FACAI), a Las Vegas-based nonprofit dedicated to education, cultural preservation, civic engagement, and humanitarian service, crowned the 2027 Fil-Am Nevada USA Pageant winners Saturday night at Sam's Town Live, marking one of the organization's most vibrant cultural showcases to date.

The pageant, skillfully directed by Filipino fashion advocate Alexis Somers, delivered a night that blended spectacle with substance. Somers ensured the production carried not only pageant glitz but deeper cultural meaning, weaving FACAI's mission of community upliftment into every segment.

A highlight of the evening was the National Costume competition, where contestants presented intricate ensembles inspired by Philippine history, regional traditions, and indigenous craftsmanship. The segment, which also earned its own special award, underscored FACAI's commitment to preserving Filipino heritage and educating younger generations through cultural expression. The Evening Gown segment drew thunderous applause, with contestants showcasing elegance, confidence, and artistry that captivated the audience.

Additional awards were presented across categories, including Best in Production, Casual Wear, National Costume, and other division-specific recognitions celebrating creativity, performance, and stage presence.



FACAI President Ron Sumbang welcomed attendees, emphasizing the organization's role in strengthening Filipino-American identity and civic participation in Nevada. Executive Director Dr. Philip Paleracio delivered remarks highlighting FACAI's mission to promote education, economic empowerment, cultural pride, civic engagement, and humanitarian outreach. FACAI Foundation President Atty. Bing Longakit reinforced the organization's philanthropic work, noting that events like the pageant help sustain programs supporting youth, seniors, families, and underserved communities.

This year's crowned queens are:

- Agnes Dockery — Senior Winner
- Richel Ann Farrales — Mrs. Winner
- Maria Pacturan — Teens Winner
- Anne Valin — Miss Winner

- Mary Blaire Abarquez — Mrs. Elegance Winner

The coronation drew families, community leaders, and supporters, reinforcing FACAI's vision of empowering Filipino-American women to serve as ambassadors of culture, leadership, and civic action.

Additional information on the pageant is available at www.filamcivicaction.org. For more photos See Section C Special Coverage section News in Photos ni Kuya Sol and for full coverage photos by scanning the QR code:



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SC DISMISSAL DRAWS ‘FIREWALL’ AROUND SENATE IMPEACHMENT COURT – TONGOL

MANILA, Oct 1 (Mabuhay) -- The Supreme Court’s dismissal of challenges to the Senate impeachment court’s voting rule has drawn a “definitive firewall” around the chamber’s independence in trying the case against Vice President Sara Duterte, the court’s spokesperson said Wednesday.

“By junking these challenges, the Highest Court has drawn a definitive firewall around the independence of the Senate as an Impeachment Court, confirming that its proceedings cannot be held hostage by premature judicial meddling or collateral litigation,” lawyer Regie Tongol said.

Tongol issued the statement after the Supreme Court en banc dismissed separate petitions filed by Victor Rodriguez, Berteni Cataluña Causing, and lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., questioning the impeachment court’s Sept. 23 ruling on the constitutional two-thirds voting threshold.

He said the petitions were dismissed on procedural grounds, specifically lack of standing and prematurity.

The dismissal on those grounds did not constitute a substantive Supreme Court determination of whether the Senate impeachment court’s interpretation of the two-thirds requirement is constitutionally correct.

Tongol, however, said the impeachment court views the action as leaving its Sept. 23 ruling intact and allowing the trial to proceed without disruption from the dismissed cases.

“The Impeachment Court’s Septem-

ber 23 ruling stands undisturbed and shall continue to perform its constitutional mandate to solely try and decide the impeachment case before it without unnecessary stalling or external distractions,” he said.

Under the Sept. 23 ruling, the constitutional two-thirds requirement will be computed based on senators who remain legally and factually capable of participating when judgment is rendered, instead of automatically fixing the number needed for conviction at 16 based on a 24-member Senate.

The impeachment court adopted the interpretation by a 13-1 vote, with six senator-judges not participating. The ruling also specified circumstances in which senators may be excluded from the denominator, including legal restraint, detention or suspension, physical or medical incapacity, or being beyond the Senate’s coercive processes.

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian earlier stressed that the ruling did not change the constitutional requirement of a two-thirds vote but addressed which senators should form the voting base when some are unable to participate.

Before the petitions were resolved, Gatchalian said the impeachment trial would continue under the Sept. 23 rule unless the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order.

Tongol said the dismissal removes those challenges as obstacles to continuing the proceedings. (MNS)

SC JUNKS PETITIONS VS IMPEACHMENT COURT’S VOTE RULE

MANILA, Oct 1 (Mabuhay) -- The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday dismissed three petitions questioning the Senate impeachment court’s interpretation of the two-thirds vote required to convict in an impeachment case.

In a statement, the SC said the en banc junked the petitions of Victor D. Rodriguez, Berteni Cataluña Causing, and Atty. Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. “based on procedural grounds such as lack of standing and prematurity, among others.

On Sept. 23, the Senate impeachment court ruled that the phrase “all the Members of the Senate” under Article XI, Section 3(6) of the Constitution refers only to senators who are legally and actually able to participate in the impeachment proceedings at the time of the vote.

Rodriguez argued that the impeachment court effectively amended the Constitution by adding a qualification not found in its text.

He asked the SC to nullify the ruling

and declare that any change to Article XI, Section 3(6) must go through the constitutional process for amendment or revision. He also sought a temporary restraining order (TRO) against implementation of the ruling.

For his part, Causing argued that senators who remain in office should still be counted even if they are in hiding, detained, or medically unable to attend, asking for the issuance of a status quo ante order (SQAO) and/or TRO to stop any final vote on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s conviction.

He also sought to compel Senators Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada Jr., Rodante Marcoleta, and Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to participate in the impeachment trial and the Senate to take the necessary steps to secure their attendance.

Francisco similarly argued that because the Constitution provides for a 24- member Senate, conviction requires the concurrence of at least 16 senator-judges. (MNS)

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**ICC REGISTRY SUBMITS AMENDED
E-PROTOCOL ON FORMER PRESIDENT
DUTERTE’S CASE**

MANILA, Oct 2 (Mabuhay) -- The International Criminal Court (ICC) Registry has submitted documents and the annex including the amended E-court Protocol on the case of former President Rodrigo Duterte on charges of crimes against humanity in relation to his war on drugs as part of court regulations.

“The Registry hereby submits the amended Protocol, as annex to the present submission, in compliance with the Chamber’s Decision,” according to a document posted on the ICC website that was signed by Marc Dubuisson Director, Division of Judicial Services on behalf of Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar.

The submission is pursuant to the decision of the ICC Trial Chamber III issued on September 28, 2026 to amend the E-court protocol.

According to the ICC website, the Registry is a neutral organ of the Court that provides services to all other organs so the ICC can function and conduct fair and effective public proceedings. The Registry is responsible for three main categories of services:

judicial support, including general court management and court records, translation and interpretation, counsel support (including lists of counsel and assistants to counsel, experts, investigators and offices to support the Defence and victims), the detention centre, legal aid, library services, support for victims to participate in proceedings and apply for reparations, for witnesses to receive support and protection;

external affairs, including external relations, public information and Outreach, field office support, and victims and witness support; and

management, including security, budget, finance, human resources and general services.

The ICC Trial Chamber III had denied the request of former President Duterte to include an expert verifica-

tion for open-source or user-generated evidence that will be submitted to the chamber.

“Given the large volume of evidence that has been made available by the Prosecution in the present case, as well as the breadth of open-source and user-generated evidence, such obligation, if implemented, may in the event be unnecessary and could well have the effect of causing a needless delay to the start of the trial,” it said In a 7-page document dated September 28.

The chamber granted the prosecution’s request for the creation of an URL metadata field to easily identify the URL associated with the open source evidence at the time it was captured.

Duterte’s team has slammed the Prosecution’s disclosure of its evidence in the former official’s crimes against humanity case, saying that it is in a “terrible mess.”

On the procedural history of the Registry’s submission, it mentioned that on June 19, 2026, the Chamber issued its ‘Directions on the conduct of proceedings’, in which it, inter alia, adopted the E-Court Protocol as proposed by the Registry on June 17, 2026.

It was on August 31, 2026, the Prosecution had requested an amendment to the Protocol and the creation of a URL metadata field within Nuix Discover.

The Chamber granted the Prosecution’s request and instructed the Registry to file the amended Protocol by October 2, 2026.

Duterte is facing charges related to crimes against humanity over alleged killings during his time as President and Davao City mayor. He attended his status conference for the first time on September 16.

He was arrested by Philippine authorities in Pasay City and was handed over to the ICC on March 11, 2025.

The trial is scheduled to begin on November 30, 2026. (MNS)

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By: Doris Lacson Bauer



Passing On the Filipino Heritage

Filipino Heritage Month



In November 2009, the US Congress passed the resolution officially recognizing October as **Filipino American History Month**. Nevada officially celebrates Filipino American History Month each October, honoring the heritage, resilience, and contributions of Filipino Americans in the state and nation. In 2023, **Governor Joe Lombardo** of Nevada proclaimed October as Filipino American History Month. The proclamation recognized that Filipino Americans first arrived in the U.S. on October 18, 1587, in Morro Bay, California, and highlights their roles in the U.S. Armed Forces, labor movement, education, healthcare, business, arts, and public life. It also celebrates Nevada's thriving Filipino American community and their cultural tradition. Since then, Nevada had continued this October celebration which is now better known as **Filipino Heritage Month**.

Filipino Heritage: Key Elements and What Makes It Unique

Filipino heritage is a vibrant and complex blend of indigenous Austronesian traditions, Spanish and American colonial influences, and cultural contributions from China, Malaysia, and other parts of Southeast Asia. These influences have shaped Filipino identity, values, languages, traditions, and everyday life.

Key Elements of Filipino Heritage

Indigenous Austronesian roots: Early Filipino communities developed strong seafaring traditions and deep connections to the land, nature, and community. These roots can be seen in traditional practices, arts, beliefs, and local customs.

Spanish influence: More than three centuries of Spanish rule introduced Catholicism, Spanish surnames, fiestas, colonial architecture, and numerous Spanish loanwords in Philippine languages.

American influence: The United States influenced the country's education system, use of English, democratic institutions, popular culture, and modern political and social practices.

Asian contributions: Chinese, Malay, and other Southeast Asian influences can be found in Filipino cuisine, trade, family names, customs, languages, and business traditions.

Pillars of Filipino Heritage

Filipino heritage is a living tradition reflected in the nation's values, language, food, family life, and creative expression.

1. Core Values and Spirituality

Filipino culture is built on values such as hospitality, resilience, faith, pakikisama (harmony), hiya (propriety), and utang na loob (gratitude). These principles guide relationships, family life, and community interactions.

2. Language and Communication

The Philippines is home to over 180 languages. Filipino (based on Tagalog) and English are widely used, while regional languages such as Cebuano, Ilocano, and Hiligaynon remain important. Filipinos are also known for their use of "Taglish," blending Filipino and English in everyday conversation.

3. Cuisine

Filipino cuisine reflects indigenous, Asian, Spanish, and American influences. Popular dishes include adobo, sinigang, lumpia, pancit, and lechon, while desserts like halo-halo and ube treats are local favorites. Food plays a central role in family gatherings, celebrations, and hospitality.

4. Family and Community

Strong family ties are at the heart of Filipino society. Respect for elders, family loyalty, and the spirit of bayanihan (community cooperation) help foster close-knit families and supportive communities.

5. Art, Music, and Dance

Filipino heritage is expressed through traditional and modern art forms, music, literature, and dance. Cultural icons such as kulintang music, Original Pilipino Music (OPM), and dances like Tinikling and Cariñosa continue to celebrate Filipino identity while inspiring new generations.

In summary, the pillars of Filipino heritage, values, language, cuisine, family, and the arts, reflect a rich cultural legacy that continues to evolve while preserving the traditions and identity of the Filipino people.



Carrying Filipino Heritage Abroad

For Filipino Americans, heritage remains a vibrant part of everyday life. While experiences vary across generations and migration journeys, many continue to preserve their cultural roots while embracing American society.

Filipino heritage is expressed through family traditions, food, faith, language, and community involvement. Festivals, cultural organizations, churches, and family gatherings help strengthen connections across generations and keep traditions alive. Filipino American artists, writers, musicians, and community leaders also contribute to preserving and sharing Filipino culture by highlighting stories of identity, family, history, and migration. Ultimately, carrying Filipino heritage abroad is about honoring cultural traditions while adapting them to new experiences. Through food, faith, art, community, and family life, Filipino Americans continue to build an identity that is proudly Filipino and distinctly American.

How to Pass on Filipino Heritage to Children and Future Generations

Keeping Filipino heritage alive is about weaving language, traditions, values, and family stories into everyday life. Whether you live in the Philippines or abroad, you can help the next generation develop a strong connection to their roots through meaningful experiences and modern tools.

1. Teach and Practice the Filipino Language

Language is one of the strongest links to cultural identity. Even learning a few words in Tagalog or a regional dialect can help children feel connected to their heritage. Start with everyday greetings, common expressions, and basic vocabulary. Make learning enjoyable by using language apps, watching Filipino cartoons and films, listening to Filipino music, and practicing together as a family.

2. Celebrate Filipino Traditions and Holidays

Bring Filipino customs into your home by celebrating cultural traditions and special occasions. Decorate with parol lanterns during Christmas, prepare favorite dishes such as lechon and bibingka, or share stories and memories during Undas. Take time to explain the history and meaning behind these traditions so children can appreciate their cultural significance.

3. Pass On Filipino Values

Core Filipino values help shape character and strengthen family bonds. Teach concepts such as bayanihan (community spirit), utang na loob (gratitude), paggalang (respect for elders), and hiya (humility and propriety) through everyday actions and conversations. Stories, family discussions, and real-life examples can help children understand and practice these values in meaningful ways.

4. Preserve Traditional Games and Customs

Introduce children to classic Filipino games such as patintero, tumbang preso, and luksong tinik. Encourage traditional practices like mano po and regular family meals, which promote respect and togetherness. Modern technology can also support cultural learning through interactive games, videos, and online communities that celebrate Filipino traditions.

5. Share Family Stories and History

Family stories create a deeper sense of identity and belonging. Preserve photographs, document family histories, build a family tree, and encourage elders to share their experiences. These

personal connections help children take pride in their heritage and understand their family's journey across generations.

6. Use Technology to Strengthen Cultural Connections

Digital tools provide new ways to preserve and share Filipino culture. Encourage children to explore Filipino podcasts, videos, online communities, and digital storytelling projects. Families can also use video calls and virtual gatherings to connect with relatives and celebrate traditions together, regardless of distance.

7. Create a Filipino-Inspired Home Environment

Surround children with Filipino culture through music, food, art, literature, and family traditions. Cook traditional dishes together, read Filipino folktales, and participate in local Filipino community events and fiestas. Small but consistent practices, such as a weekly pancit dinner or a monthly family cultural night, can help keep Filipino heritage vibrant and relevant for future generations.

By actively sharing language, traditions, values, and family stories, parents and caregivers can ensure that Filipino heritage continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

How to Pass on Filipino Nursing Heritage

As **FilipiNars** is a column written by a nurse, it would be incomplete not to discuss the importance of preserving and passing on **Filipino nursing heritage**. Filipino nurses have earned a global reputation for clinical excellence, compassion, resilience, and dedication to service. By living these values, mentoring future nurses, and sharing our stories, we ensure that the legacy of Filipino nursing continues to inspire future generations.

1. Live and Share Core Filipino Nursing Values

The Filipino nursing tradition is deeply rooted in compassion, respect, humility, generosity, and service to others. These values are reflected in the way Filipino nurses care for patients and support their communities.

You can honor this heritage by:

- Treating every patient with dignity, empathy, and kindness.
- Listening attentively and making patients feel heard and valued.
- Demonstrating humility, patience, and professionalism during challenging situations.
- Showing respect for elders, colleagues, and community members, reflecting the Filipino value of paggalang (respect).

When these values are consistently practiced, they become a powerful example for younger nurses to follow.

2. Mentor and Inspire the Next Generation

Many Filipino nurses chose the profession because they were inspired by family members, teachers, or mentors who came before them. Continuing this tradition of mentorship helps strengthen the profession and preserve its cultural legacy.

You can make a difference by:

- Guiding nursing students and newly licensed nurses as they begin their careers.
- Sharing your personal journey, including the lessons and values that shaped your nursing practice.
- Encouraging young Filipinos to view nursing not only as a profession but also as a calling grounded in service and compassion.

Participating in community and cultural events that highlight the contributions of Filipino nurses.

3. Share Your Story and Preserve Our History

- Every Filipino nurse has a story worth telling. Personal experiences help preserve the collective history of Filipino nursing and inspire future generations.

Consider:

- Sharing your experiences through interviews, community programs, publications, or social media.
- Documenting milestones, challenges, and achievements throughout your nursing career.
- Highlighting the significant contributions of Filipino nurses to healthcare systems around the world.
- Encouraging older nurses to pass on their experiences and lessons learned to younger generations.
- By preserving these stories, we help ensure that the sacrifices and accomplishments of Filipino nurses are never forgotten.

4. Promote Cultural Awareness and Education

Filipino culture and nursing heritage can be celebrated both within and beyond the workplace.

Some ways to do this include:

- Supporting Filipino cultural organizations and healthcare associations.
- Participating in community outreach and service projects.
- Sharing Filipino traditions, values, and healthcare experiences through storytelling, art, or digital platforms.
- Encouraging discussions about the history and impact of Filipino nurses in healthcare.
- Cultural awareness fosters pride, strengthens identity, and helps others appreciate the unique contributions of Filipino nurses.

5. Advocate for the Profession

The history of Filipino nursing includes both remarkable achievements and significant challenges. Many Filipino nurses have overcome barriers related to migration, workplace inequities, and professional recognition.

You can honor their legacy by:

- Advocating for fair treatment, safe working conditions, and professional advancement.
- Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in healthcare.
- Recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Filipino nurses in your workplace and community.
- Encouraging future generations to uphold high standards of excellence and leadership.
- In essence, passing on Filipino nursing heritage means practicing with compassion, mentoring with purpose, and leading with pride. By sharing our values, experiences, and traditions, we ensure that future generations inherit not only the clinical skills that define great nurses but also the cultural spirit that has made Filipino nurses respected around the world.

For Filipino nurses, this heritage is especially meaningful. It reminds us that nursing is not only a profession but also a tradition of caring that has been passed from one generation to the next, enriching healthcare systems and communities across the globe.

Why Filipino Heritage Matters

Filipino heritage is more than a connection to the past. It is a living legacy that shapes how we care for others, strengthen family bonds, serve our communities, and connect with fellow Filipinos around the world. Rooted in a rich blend of cultures, traditions, and shared values, Filipino heritage continues to evolve while preserving the qualities that define us: resilience, compassion, faith, and a deep commitment to service.

Mastering Self-Control: Why Wisdom Begins with Silence

BY: Leizel Trinidad

In a culture that often encourages us to speak up immediately, defend our positions, or post quick takes online, we are conditioned to believe that having the loudest voice means having the most power. Yet ancient wisdom flips this idea completely on its head, reminding us that true mastery over ourselves begins not with speaking, but with staying quiet.

Proverbs 17:27–28 offers a timeless blueprint for self-control:

"The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues."

Looking closely at this passage reveals a profound truth about emotional intelligence, strength, and protecting your peace of mind.

The True Mark of Strength

In our community, connection and group harmony (pakikipagkapwa) sit at the very heart of how we live. We gather around food, share stories, laugh loudly, and show love through constant interaction. But because we value our relationships so deeply, uncontrolled words spoken in anger or frustration can leave long-lasting scars.

Proverbs 17:27 highlights two essential traits: restraint and an even temper.

Exercising restraint doesn't mean becoming a doormat or hiding your feelings. It means mastering the impulse to react right away. Think about those high-pressure moments: an unfair moment at work, a passive-aggressive comment during a family gathering, or a heated discussion about politics or finances. The natural urge is to fire back immediately to prove a point or defend your pride.

However, the strongest person in the room is rarely the one yelling or demanding to be heard. The strongest person is the one who possesses enough self-control to pause, regulate their emotions, and choose reflection over an instant reaction. Restraint keeps your personal power intact.

Why Wisdom Begins with Silence

Verse 28 adds a sharp, practical observation: Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent.

Modern society often equates talkativeness with authority. But when you intentionally choose silence in tense situations, several powerful shifts happen:

- You preserve your emotional energy: Not every argument deserves an invitation to your mind. Choosing silence starves unnecessary drama before it can grow.
- You gain critical clarity: Silence allows you to observe what is really happening beneath the surface instead of just reacting to surface-level irritation.
- You maintain respect: When you speak rarely but thoughtfully, your words carry weight. People naturally lean in to listen to the person who remains composed under pressure.

For Fil-Ams navigating the delicate balance between traditional values—like showing respect for elders (pagmamano) and maintaining family unity—and the fast-paced, assertive nature of American culture, self-control is your greatest shield. Knowing when not to speak keeps family relationships intact while preserving your dignity.

Practicing Self-Control in Daily Life

Mastering self-control isn't about becoming emotionless; it's about building a daily habit of deliberate choices:

1. **Master the 5-Second Pause:** When a comment or email sets you off, force yourself to take a slow breath before answering. Ask yourself: Will responding right now build peace, or just prolong the mess?
2. **Listen to Understand, Not to Rebut:** In conversations with family or coworkers, focus entirely on hearing what they are feeling rather than formulating your comeback while they are still speaking.
3. **Protect Your Inner Peace:** You don't need to attend every argument you're invited to. Leaving an unnecessary point unsaid protects your mental health far more than winning a temporary debate.

Quiet Power in a Loud World

Noise is easy; self-control takes real discipline.

Proverbs 17:27–28 reminds us that real wisdom isn't measured by how fast or loud we talk, but by our ability to govern our own spirit. By mastering self-control and recognizing that wisdom begins with silence, you protect your inner peace, strengthen your family bonds, and walk through life with steady, unshakable strength.



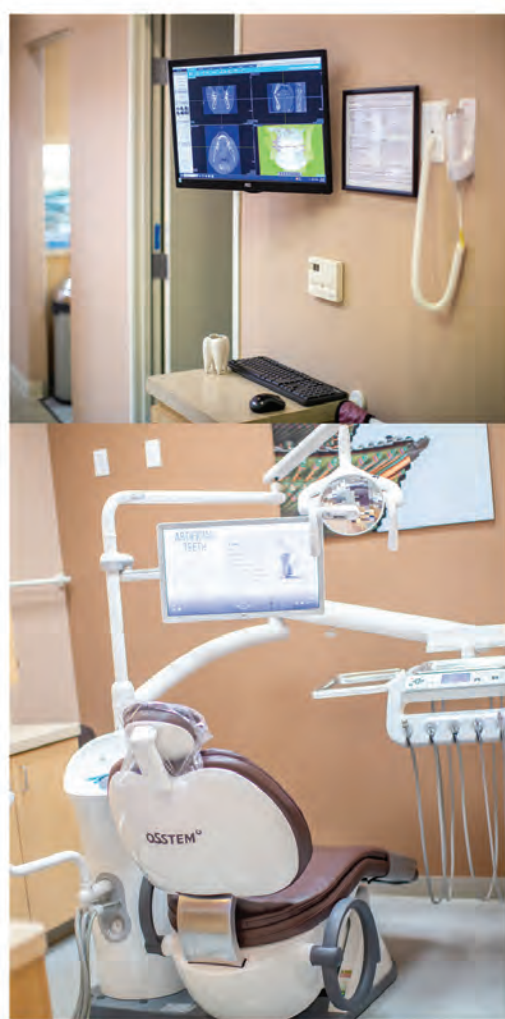
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The Still Point

By Jasminemarie Soller, LMT, NVMT#11598



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Arthritis Doesn't Take a Winter Vacation in Southern Nevada

If you've lived in Southern Nevada for a while, you've probably heard someone say, "At least we don't have to shovel snow." Fair enough. I've said it to myself. But in my work with people who live in their bodies with pain every day, I also know this: our version of winter can still be hard on joints. Even a drop into the 40-to-50-degree range can leave the body feeling stiff, achy, and not quite ready to cooperate.

I hear it from clients this time of year. A cold front moves through the valley, the temperature dips overnight, and suddenly the morning routine takes a little more patience. Hands feel tight. Knees grumble. Old injuries start making themselves known again, as if they have been waiting for the first chilly morning to speak up.

Experts are still looking at exactly how weather and joint pain are connected. But after many years of hands-on bodywork, I have learned to respect what people feel in their own bodies. When cooler weather settles in, stiffness often comes along for the ride.

That is why I always remind people that Southern Nevada gives us a real advantage. We still get sunshine, open skies, and plenty of afternoons that are comfortable enough to move around. Even a few minutes outside can help the body warm up and remind stiff joints that they still have a job to do.

In my practice, I often tell clients that movement does not have to look impressive to be useful. It can be a short walk, a few easy laps in a warm pool, or some gentle stretching at home. The point is to keep things moving in a way your body can actually tolerate.

Practical Winter Tips for Arthritis Relief

These are the kinds of simple reminders I come back to again and again with clients during the cooler months:

Warm up first. A warm shower, heating pad, or cozy layer can help loosen things up before you ask your body to get moving.

Dress for the morning, not just the afternoon. Those early hours can be chilly, so layers can help keep muscles and joints more comfortable.

Move a little, even if it is just a little. A 10- to 15-minute walk can help loosen stiff joints and make the rest of the day feel easier.

Stretch gently. A few slow stretches in the morning or before bed can help your body ease into the day and settle down at night.

Keep water nearby. It is easy to drink less in winter, but your muscles and joints still need hydration.

Wear shoes that help, not hurt. Supportive shoes can take pressure off your knees, hips, and ankles, especially when your joints already feel a little cranky.

Pay attention to your body. I always tell people that pain is information. If something hurts more than usual, give yourself permission to slow down, modify the movement, or rest.

Make the Most of Mild Desert Days

I also like to remind people to work with the rhythm of the desert instead of against it. Around here, late morning or early afternoon is often the sweet spot. That may be the best time for a short walk, a little gardening, or simply getting outside for some fresh air.

If it is too windy or chilly outside, take the movement indoors. A community center, mall, fitness facility, or heated pool can give you a comfortable place to stay active without fighting the weather.

Know When to Ask for Help

Of course, there is a difference between normal stiffness and pain that needs attention. I never want anyone to feel like they have to guess their way through worsening pain, swelling, redness, sudden loss of movement, or discomfort that starts interfering with daily life. That is the time to check in with a health care professional and get support.

For me, the heart of winter self-care is not about pushing through. It is about listening more closely. The body is always communicating; our job is to slow down enough to hear it and respond with care.

Luckily, Southern Nevada gives us sunshine almost every day. A bright afternoon can lift your mood, invite you outside, and make movement feel a little more doable.

Arthritis may not take a winter vacation, but that does not mean winter has to take over your life. I believe small, steady choices matter: a warm start to the morning, a little movement, a few moments in the sun, and enough compassion to honor what your body needs that day.

We may not get to choose the forecast, but we can choose how we meet it with patience, warmth, and one gentle step at a time.

Jasminemarie Soller, LMT, brings more than 29 years of heart-centered experience to her work as a Las Vegas-based licensed massage therapist. Rooted in a deep respect for the body's innate wisdom, her practice blends clinical bodywork, recovery, and whole-person wellness with a holistic understanding of the connection between body, mind, and spirit. With experience across athletic, holistic, medical, and educational settings, she is certified by the California Massage Therapy Council and licensed in Nevada. Jasminemarie teaches at Mikhail Education Corporation's Personal Fitness Trainer program, serves as an Allied Health instructor, and is the Director of the Massage Therapy/Reflexology program at Advanced Training Institute. She is active in AFMTE, ABMP, and AMTA, where she serves on the AMTA Nevada Chapter board. As a Certified Community Health Worker, consultant, and entrepreneur, she is devoted to helping people reconnect with their bodies, cultivate self-awareness, and approach healing as a sacred, embodied practice. Her column, "The Still Point," reflects that calling by exploring traditional healing, modern recovery, and mindful self-care.



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A woman with dark hair, wearing a black dress with large green and white floral patterns, stands on a red carpet. She is smiling and holding a large, ornate gold trophy with both hands. The background is a white wall with the text "The EdukCircle" repeated in a stylized font.

While in Siargao, Alden shared how he was able to bond with Nadine and her Filipino-French businessman boyfriend Christophe Bariou during their

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GENDERS IN SPORTS

The ongoing controversy, which started fifty years ago, about men and transgender people in women's sports appears to be a dilemma not only in the United States but around the world, including the Philippines. While brilliant leaders in society and in the government seem to be at a stalemate, and the equitable solution manifests as unattainable, I personally think that, using common sense, the just remedy is simple and clear, staring us in the face.

The debate surrounding the inclusion of transgender athletes in sports has become one of the most complex and polarizing issues in modern athletics. At its core, the conversation pits two fundamental values against each other: inclusivity for transgender individuals and competitive fairness for cisgender athletes, particularly in women's sports.

Science indicates that male puberty confers significant biological advantages, such as greater bone density, muscle mass, and lung capacity, which are not fully erased by subsequent hormone replacement therapy.

Conversely, forcing transgender women to compete in the men's category invalidates their identity and causes severe psychological distress. To bridge this divide, creating a third, dedicated category for transgender and non-binary athletes offers a pragmatic compromise that preserves competitive fairness while guaranteeing inclusion.

First and foremost, a third category protects the integrity and safety of women's sports. The female category was originally established to ensure that women could compete, win, and secure opportunities—such as athletic scholarships—without being overshadowed by the male physiological advantages.

The pragmatic solution I am suggest-

ing for this 50-year-old dilemma is the creation of a new category for transgender athletes.

Misguided and dangerous

A segment of modern society, seemingly oblivious of history, is favoring socialism, Marxism, and communism over democracy. The bait of various freebies (free housing, child care, health-care (Medicare), education, transportation, etc.) appears to be effective in attracting these misguided people who feel they are entitled to all these, and more. But where will the trillion of dollars come from? Are these material things worth sacrificing freedom and democracy we are enjoying in the United States today? My answer, is, an emphatic No! If some people are not comfortable and unhappy with our system of government in America, they should move out and live in a socialist/Marxist/communist country of their choice: China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Venezuela, Spain, etc.

While victims of those oppressive and collapsing nations around the globe are escaping to the United States to run away from despotism and tyranny and enjoy freedom in a genuine American democracy, many mentally disjointed Americans, a majority of whom are Gen Zs and Millennials, are embracing idiocy to abolish the Police, ICE, national borders, and government, as we know it. This is the height of stupidity, to say the least. Thank God, we do not see this degree of lunacy in the Philippines.

Hot drinks and cancer

A large new study from the UK reveals that drinking hot beverages "was associated with a threefold higher risk of developing esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) than consuming warm beverages."

If the link is causal, consuming beverages "hot" instead of "very hot" could

prevent an estimated 14% of new ESCC cases, or 440 cancers each year in the UK, researchers reported.

"The study of nearly 1 million people is consistent with previous research from countries such as Iran and China, where ESCC is much more common, and with the International Agency for Research on Cancer classification of beverages consumed above 65 °C (149 °F) as "probably carcinogenic" to humans based on limited epidemiologic and experimental evidence." — MS

Kratom: new killer

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*), which contains more than 40 chemical compounds, alkaloids, is a tropical evergreen tree native to Southeast Asia and has been used in traditional medicine for centuries. It was in the late 20th century (1980s, 1990s) when immigrants brought it to the United States and Europe.

Kratom mimics opioids in larger doses and can cause severe, life-threatening adverse reactions, especially among children. Symptoms include seizures, severe agitation, tremors, hallucinations, tachycardia, spike in blood pressure, slowed breathing, and comas.

This deadly "all-energy, all-natural booster," as it is deceptively advertised, comes in bright, sweet-flavored packaging sold at gas stations, where adults and teens get them. Very dangerous to pregnant women and their babies.

It might sound ridiculous, but at the national level in the United States, Kratom remains federally legal to possess and buy, and is not listed as a controlled

substance. My question is why?

Killer substances with medicinal use must be completely banned in public and legally allowed only for medical use. We already have too many dangerous, deadly substances around; legislators do not have to approve more. Look at what happened to recreational marijuana. More and more clinical data and studies are showing various health hazards among users, their families, and the people around them.

Drugs have been known to destroy empires, nations, and people. Let us learn from history; otherwise we shall be doomed to repeat it, and this time around, labelled "stupid" also on our tombstone.

Diagnosing Dengue

Recognizing and diagnosing dengue in the United States is not an easy task because it is rare and mimics other viral infections like Zika and chikungunya. Diagnostic tests help in the diagnosis.

In the Philippines, even a medical intern could smell it miles away. Filipino physicians almost always clinch the diagnosis even before blood test confirmation arrives. There are now about 2,008 cases of dengue in the 40 jurisdictions of the United States, with Florida ranking first with a record-breaking outbreak. There is one confirmed death.

While there is no specific direct treatment for dengue, the supportive management available today here and in the Philippines results in over 99 percent success and recovery with early diagnosis.

Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, a Cardiac Surgeon Emeritus based in Northwest Indiana and Las Vegas, Nevada, is an international medical lecturer/author, Health Advocate, newspaper columnist, and Chairman of the Filipino United Network-USA, a 501(c)3 humanitarian foundation in the United States. He was a decorated recipient of the Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 1995, conferred by then Indiana Governor, later Senator, and then presidential candidate, Evan Bayh. Other Sagamore past awardees include President Harry Truman, President George HW Bush, Muhammad Ali, Astronaut Gus Grissom (Wikipedia). Websites: FUN8888.com, Today.SPSAtoday.com, and philipSchua.com Email: scalpelpen@gmail.com

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Caring for a family member or relative?

Understand the special tax rules

Family members who are paid to take care of a loved one may have tax responsibilities. This depends on whether they are considered an employee or provide their services as their own business.

Let's go over the special rules of being a family caregiver.

When a caregiver is considered an employee

A caregiver is someone who performs in-home services for elderly or disabled individuals. Generally, they are considered an employee and the person being cared for is considered the employer. This could make them responsible for employment taxes. However, there are some cases when the employer may not owe employment taxes. Some examples are when the caregiver is:

- Their spouse
- Their child under the age of 21
- Their parent, unless an exception applies
- An employee who is under the age of 18 at any time during the year, unless an exception applies

It's important to know that even if they don't owe employment taxes, they are still required to report the caregiver's compensation on Form W-2. See Table 1, "Do You Need to Pay Employment Taxes" on page 5 of Publication 926, Household Employer's Tax Guide, for more information.

When a caregiver isn't considered an employee

Sometimes, caregivers aren't considered employees, but they are still required to report the compensation as income on their Form 1040 or 1040-SR. They may also be required to pay self-employment tax depending on the facts and circumstances.

Here are some examples of when a family member caregiver typically wouldn't owe a self-employment tax:

If a family member caregiver is paid by an insurance company to take care of their spouse. The taxpayer would still be required to report the income though.

If a family member caregiver received income from a state agency to care for their grandchildren so their daughter could work. Again, the taxpayer would still be required to report any income.

When self-employment tax may apply

If the caregiver is engaged in a trade or business providing care services, they would be required to pay self-employment tax. For example:

A caregiver received income from a state agency to care for their grandmother, and they operate a sole proprietorship adult day-care business for multiple clients, including their grandmother, in their home. The taxpayer would owe self-employment tax since the taxpayer is engaged in a trade or business of providing care giving services as a sole proprietor operator of an adult day care. The taxpayer must report the full amount of the payment as income on both Schedule C and Schedule SE.



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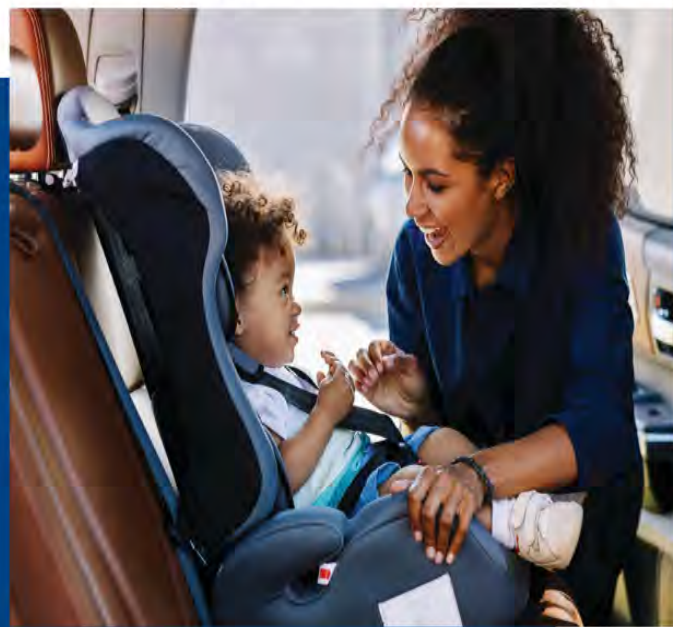
MGA PROGRAMA

MISYON

Bawasan ang bilang ng pagkamatay at pinsala sa mga kalsada sa Nevada upang ang mga tao ay makauwi ng ligtas.

PROGRAMA SA PROTEKSYON NG MGA NAKASAKAY SA SASAKYAN AT KALIGTASAN NG MGA BATANG PASAHERO

Ang programang ito ay nagtataguyod ng kahalagahan ng tamang paggamit ng mga seatbelt, child restraints, at ang kanilang interaksyon sa mga supplemental airbag restraint habang nagbibigay ng kaalaman sa mga batas ng Nevada tungkol sa proteksyon ng mga pasahero.



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Tatlong pangkalahatang aspeto ang bumubuo sa programang Impaired Driving sa Nevada: pagpapatupad, pagpapasya, at pagsisikap sa pagbibigay ng kaalaman. Ang layunin ng programa ay ang pagbawas ng mga pagkamatay at malubhang pinsala na resulta ng impaired driving sa mga kalsada ng Nevada

MGA REKORD NG TRAPIKO AT FATAL ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEMS (FARS)

Ang pangongolekta at pagsusuri ng datos ng aksidente ay ang unang hakbang sa pagbabawas ng mga aksidente at pagkamatay sa kalsada. Ginagamit ang nakolektang datos ng FARS para bumuo ng mga epektibong programa para sa kaligtasan sa highway.



KALIGTASAN NG MGA NAGMOMOTOR

Ang programa ng Nevada Rider Motorcycle Safety ay pinopondohan ng mga miyembro ng Nevada's motorcyclist. Ang programang ito ay nag-aalok ng license waiver at advanced rider courses. Nagbibigay din ito ng pagsasanay para sa mga instruktur at suporta sa media campaigns upang itaguyod ang ligtas na pagmamaneho.

MGA GUMAGAMIT NG KALSADA NG WALANG PROTEKSYON

Ang programang ito ay nagtuturo sa mga drayber at sa mga pedestriyan ng tungkol sa ligtas na paglalakbay sa kalsada ng Nevada at nagbibigay kaalaman sa publiko sa pamamagitan ng mga community events na nakatuon sa kaligtasan ng mga pedestriyan at nagbibisikleta para sa lahat ng edad.

ZERO FATALITIES PROGRAM

Programang edukasyon at pagpapalaganap ng kaligtasan sa trapiko sa buong estado na naglalayong makamit ang layuning Zero Fatalities sa mga kalsada ng Nevada.

ZERO TEEN FATALITIES (ZTF)

Ang mga aksidente sa kotse ang pangunahing sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga tinedyer sa U.S. Ang programang ZTF ay tumutulong sa pag-suporta sa edukasyon sa pagmamaneho at nagtuturo sa mga batang drayber ng tungkol sa kaligtasan at ang kahalagahan ng mga batas ng Nevada's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), na tumutulong sa mga kabataan na makakuha ng karanasan sa pagmamaneho nang ligtas.

JOINING FORCES

Isang programa sa pagpapatupad ng batas na sumasaklaw sa maraming hurisdiksyon na nagtataguyod ng pagpapatupad sa buong estado at nagtuturo sa mga gumagamit ng kalsada ng tungkol sa ligtas na pagmamaneho.

IBA PANG MGA PROGRAMA:

Maraming iba pang mga programa na may kaugnayan sa highway safety ang ibinibigay ng NDPS Office of Traffic Safety, ilan sa mga ito ay:

- Pagbuo ng mga koalisyon para sa kaligtasan ng komunidad
- Pagpapalaganap at edukasyon sa komunidad



Para sa kumpletong listahan ng mga sponsor ng programang NDPS Office of Traffic Safety , bisitahin ang aming website sa www.ots.state.nv.us

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Austin Beaumont: CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DEPT 8

Austin Beaumont is a nonpartisan candidate for District Court Judge in Department 8 of Nevada’s Eighth Judicial District Court. His professional background includes criminal prosecution, civil litigation, appellate work, judicial research and private-sector management. Clark County’s official candidate list identifies Beaumont and incumbent Judge Jessica K. Peterson as the two candidates appearing in the 2026 general-election contest. Judicial elections are nonpartisan, leaving voters to assess qualifications, experience, temperament and conduct for themselves.

Beaumont grew up in several Western states, including Washington, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. He says that moving frequently taught him to listen, adapt and connect with people from different backgrounds. He describes service, problem-solving and team building as recurring themes throughout his career.

He currently serves as a Chief Deputy District Attorney in Clark County’s Major Fraud Unit, where he handles complex cases involving fraud, financial crimes and major investigations. His earlier legal experience includes working in the District Attorney’s Appeals Unit and serving for four years as a judicial law clerk for two Eighth Judicial District Court judges. He also completed externships with the Nevada Division of Insurance and the U.S. Attorney’s Office Organized Crime Strike Force.

According to his campaign biography, Beaumont’s work as a judicial law clerk included reviewing motions, researching legal questions, evaluating evidence, analyzing competing arguments and helping prepare judicial orders. He says this experience gave him direct exposure to how judges manage serious civil and criminal matters. It also required consideration of public safety, constitutional rights, fairness and accountability.

Before beginning his legal career, Beaumont worked in hotel management and supervised operations in Washington and Oregon. During the Great Recession, he helped manage hotel properties facing difficult economic conditions. According to Beaumont, this experience strengthened his ability to assess organizational problems, make decisions under pressure and remain accountable for results. He has described patience, practical problem-solving and respect for colleagues as lessons carried from hospitality into public service.

Beaumont earned an Associate of Arts in Business Administration from North Idaho College and bachelor’s degrees in General Management and Human Resource Management from Eastern Washington University. He later received his Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho College of Law.

While attending law school, he served as chief managing editor

of the Idaho Law Review and received its Outstanding Editor Award. He was also recognized for pro bono service, volunteered with a Youth Accountability Board and earned Dean’s List honors.

His listed endorsements include District Attorney Steve Wolfson, retired Judge Donald Mosley, the Clark County Prosecutors Association, law-enforcement and veterans organizations, and labor groups including the Southern Nevada Building Trades Union and LiUNA Local 872. Endorsements reflect the views of the endorsing individuals and organizations and are one part of the information voters may consider.

Beaumont says he would bring his experience in law, management and public service to the District Court bench. His candidacy gives voters an opportunity to compare his background, stated judicial philosophy and professional record with those of the incumbent when considering the responsibilities of Department 8.--

ENDORSEMENTS

- PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE OF NEVADA
- THE THIRD BRANCH NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE WOLFSON
- RETIRED JUDGE DONALD MOSLEY
- CLARK COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
- CLARK COUNTY MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
- VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL
- NEVADA VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- ARMED FORCES CHAMBER
- NEVADA POLICE UNION
- LAS VEGAS POLICE MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- LAS VEGAS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- LAS VEGAS PEACE OFFICER SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- LAS VEGAS PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
- PEACE OFFICER RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA
- SPARKS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- RENO POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- CARSON CITY SHERIFF’S SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION
- WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION
- WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION
- DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
- HENDERSON POLICE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
- CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION
- SOUTHERN NEVADA BUILDING TRADES UNION
- LABORERS’ INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA (LIUNA) LOCAL 872



NEWS IN PHOTOS with *Kuya Sol*

Sol Felipe D. Llasos - PRO of: FAMAN - Filipino Americans Media Association of Nevada • Historian of the NaFFAA State - National Federation of Filipino American Associations and the US-Filipino Veterans Group of Las Vegas • PRO- Balayan Las Vegas Asso. • Adviser/Founder of SILVAK Society of Ilonggos in Las Vegas Abyan kag Kasimanwa • BOD of PACF Philippine American Charity Foundation. To be featured please email solying@yahoo.com or call 702•336•0753, Message Facebook/Messenger - Sol Felipe Llasos. For more community news and photos, visit his Facebook Page: Philippine Times of Southern Nevada News in Photos, and Las Vegas Filipino Community News in Photos.



2027 MISS FIL-AM NEVAD USA CROWNED AT SAM'S TOWN LIVE, FACAI - FIL-AM CIVIC ACTION INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY PAGEANT A SUCCESS

The recently concluded Miss FilAm Nevada USA Pageant held at Sam's Town Live was participated by 37 candidates in 5 different categories: Miss Teen Fil-Am Nevada USA, Miss Fil-Am Nevada USA, Mrs. Fil-Am Nevada USA, Mrs. Fil-Am Nevada USA Elegance and Ms. Senior Fil-Am Nevada USA. (see front page story). Creative Event Chair & Pageant Director Miss Alexis Sommers was given special citations among others for her creativity and successful pageants behind the success of FACAI's pageant annual project that had been going on since 4 years ago. Bernie Benito Event Chair and one of the founders of FACAI with the present leadership under the presidency of Ron Sumbang, VP Olympia Ramones, Executive Director Dr. Philip Paleracio, their Board members, committee chairs, advisers were the reasons behind the success of this year's 2027 Pageant. Community Leaders, Government officials, the specially chosen members of the Board of Judges, sponsors, patrons, benefactors, raffle ticket buyers, guests and Sam's Town staff were greatly appreciated by the organization for their full support. The pageant's culmination and crowning night was the product of previous selection and preminales held weeks prior to this final night. The crowning night was also participated by beautiful reigning and former beauty pageant participants that made more grandeur to the night aside from musical productions and raffle draws.





NEWS IN PHOTOS with *Kuya JoHann & Kuya Sol*



TID BITS ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FILIPINO AMERICANS COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

LAS VEGAS SHINES LIGHT ON FILIPINO AMERICAN JOURNEY AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION BEGINS

By LAS VEGAS, PHLV News Desk

The City of Las Vegas officially kicked off its observance of Filipino American History Month (FAHM) as City Hall illuminated its exterior in red Thursday evening, honoring the enduring legacy and contributions of Filipino Americans whose history has become woven into the fabric of the United States. The celebration drew community leaders, families and youth advocates to downtown Las Vegas, highlighting a heritage that spans more than four centuries in America.

The symbolic lighting was made possible following discussions initiated by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations-Nevada (NaFFAA-NV) with the office of Las Vegas Mayor Shelley Berkley, underscoring the city's continued commitment to recognizing the contributions and history of the Filipino American community.

Filipino American History Month is observed nationwide each October, commemorating the arrival of the first recorded Filipinos in what is now the continental United States on Oct. 18, 1587, when Filipino sailors known as "Luzones Indios" landed in present-day Morro Bay, California. The observance was first championed by the Filipino American National Historical Society in 1992 and gained national recognition through congressional resolutions in 2009 recognizing October as Filipino American History Month.

The month-long celebration serves as a reminder of the many ways Filipino Americans have helped shape the nation, from agricultural workers and labor organizers to military veterans, healthcare professionals, educators, entrepreneurs and public servants. Their contributions have been instrumental in building communities and strengthening the social and economic foundations of the United States.

Las Vegas has continued to expand its recognition of that history. In 2023, then-Mayor Carolyn Goodman issued a proclamation officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month in the city, calling upon residents and visitors to celebrate the Filipino American community and its contributions to Las Vegas' diverse cultural landscape.

During the gathering, Sally Baleda, chair of the NaFFAA Desert Mountain Region (NaFFAA DMR), reminded attendees of the significance of Filipino American History Month and the responsibility of preserving and sharing the stories of Filipino Americans whose sacrifices and achievements helped pave the way for future generations.

This year's observance carried additional significance because of the strong participation of Filipino American youth, a development community leaders described as encouraging for the future preservation of history, identity and civic engagement.

Among those attending was Filipino American youth participant Rolly Uclaray, who reflected on the meaning of the celebration for his generation.

"For me, Filipino American History Month is about being my parents' American dream and finding ways to make that dream meaningful in my own life. It's about taking everything they worked and sacrificed for and making it all come together in a way that honors their journey while creating my own," Uclaray said.

Organizers said the presence of young Filipino Americans demonstrates that the stories, sacrifices and achievements of earlier generations continue to resonate with a new generation seeking to understand its place within the broader American experience.

As the program concluded, NaFFAA-NV President Dr. Michael Sta. Juana rallied the enthusiastic crowd to gather before the glowing facade of City Hall for a commemorative photo, capturing a moment many described as both celebratory and historic for the local Filipino American community.

As City Hall glowed red against the downtown skyline, attendees reflected on a journey that stretches from the first Filipino sailors who arrived on America's shores more than four centuries ago to today's thriving Filipino American communities across the nation. That journey, they said, is not merely a chapter in history but an enduring part of America's story itself, embedded in the building of a nation and reflected in the countless contributions Filipino Americans continue to make in every sector of society.



LAS VEGAS FILIPINO ADVENT CHORALE FIRST COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE AT THE LIGHTING OF LAS VEGAS CITY HALL

Conducted by your Kuya Sol with wife Janet Llasos her pianist wife, Las Vegas Filipino Advent Chorale is one of the latest Filipino chorale group here in Southern Nevada. The group is set to perform entertainment Filipino songs and folk dance at the October 3 Fiesta Filipino Celebration at M Hotel. Formed just this 2026 as a church choir of the Las Vegas Filipino SDA Church. Some of the members are remnants of the former Fil-Am SDA Chorale that presented a 2-hour concert at Palabra Viba ten years ago in 2016 produced by AB Productions of Bernie Benito and the late Columbia Records singer Loni Andal sponsored by FACAI -FilAm Civic Action International. Kuya Sol of the Philippine Times of Southern Nevada is also an officer of NaFFAA Nevada and an organizer of the Las Vegas Filipino SDA Church located at 2222 W Mesquite Ave, LV NV 8910s



FOR HER HUMANITARIANISM, PHILANTROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, JOSIE HARRISON WAS HONORED AND CELEBRATED AT FIL-AM CENTRAL

Organized by Fil-Am friends and some community leaders, Josie Harrison, mother of the one and only famous comedian, Jo Koy, was given honor, words of appreciation and citations from various Fil-Am organizations in Las Vegas for her community involvement, humanitarianism, and philanthropic activities at the Filipino Town Fil-Am Central last Sep 20, 2026. It was an event of celebration, appreciation, singing, dancing and friendship. According to Arielle Duave of the Arielle Live TV "It was a beautiful gathering filled with love, laughter, and appreciation for a remarkable woman who has made an impact on our community. In her remarks Josie made mention of some names and organizers who made the surprise event for her possible: Bikolnon Association of Nevada, Cavite Association, PAAN, IAAAN, Pangasinan Association of Las Vegas, and many more.



MAYA TWEETS

BY MAE P. BARROS-WAYNE



A Celebration of Love, Family, Friendship and Faith

Weddings among Filipinos have always been more than the joining of two people in marriage. They are cherished celebrations of love, family, friendship, and faith. Rooted in traditions that honor both heritage and relationships, Filipino weddings bring together generations of loved ones to witness and celebrate one of life's most meaningful milestones. At the heart of the occasion is the sacredness of the union. It is the coming together of two individuals who pledge their love and commitment to one another, promising to walk side by side through life's triumphs and challenges until death parts them. Yet, the occasion also symbolizes the joining of two families that create bonds extending far beyond the bride and groom themselves.

Family plays a central role in the Filipino culture, and weddings beautifully reflect this cherished value. Parents, lolos and lolas, siblings, mga kamag-anak (relatives) and lifelong friends gather not only to witness the exchange of vows but also to offer their support, blessings and encouragement to the newlyweds as they begin their journey together.

On September 19, 2026, such a heartfelt celebration took place at The Clubhouse in Lakeside, Buena Park, California. The wedding of Dr. Nikki Avenido and my nephew, Dr. Shawn Barros, officiated by family friend Pastor Thel Bringas, was a time when loved ones reconnected to celebrate the enduring power of love. Both dentists, their shared passion for caring for others has become one of the foundations of their relationship. Long-time friends and classmates in dental school, their relationship blossomed long after they have already established their flourishing careers.

Beneath the warm glow of an end-of-summer afternoon, the golden rays of the sun cast gentle shadows across the clubhouse grounds. The atmosphere was both elegant and welcoming. Nikki's mom Erica flew in from the Philippines to walk her daughter on the aisle. Following the ceremony was a relaxed reception at the serene and well-decked family backyard that glittered with string lights and eventually pulsated with both melodious and poignant music. Father of the groom, Dr. Marvin Barros, played the couple's chosen song on the saxophone. Guests enjoyed a feast of luscious buffet, made sure by mom Dr. Cherry Barros that each food was a bite into happiness. Friends' toasts recounted treasured memories and stories about the couple. To all the guests, their wedding served as a beautiful reminder that while careers, achievements and milestones enrich our lives, love remains life's greatest blessing.

To Nikki and Shawn, may your marriage be filled with endless joy, unwavering friendship and a deep and abiding love that grows stronger each year. May God grant you his abundant blessings, guidance and manifold favors as you journey through life. May your home always be filled with peace, laughter, faith and gratitude, and may the love that brought you together continue to illuminate your path for decades to come.

Congratulations and best wishes! May your love story be blessed beyond measure!

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

Ah, Mary Can Dream!

By Marylaine Louise L. Viernes

Award-winning Author / Journalist

Carlos Palanca Awardee & Professional Host/Emcee



What an unforgettable night it was meeting the world-famous John Steven Soriano, a UK-based nurse and content creator popularly known as Nurse Even, who has dominated various social media sites with his wit, humor and heart! I would like to thank my dear friend and our beloved Doctor Homer Tuazon and Apollo Medical Group for always getting me to serve as the master of ceremonies of his many shows and concert productions! I have been doing this many years with him but this night with Nurse Even, "This is Bullshift" was not your regular comedy show. It elicited laughter and applause from the audience, but somehow, it opened my eyes to the strife of Filipinos working abroad ~ to give their families a better life. While Nurse Even was the funniest person I have ever met, able to make good fun of even the smallest antics of his audience, turning everything into comedy, his skits brought the spotlight on Mental Health awareness, especially Anxiety and Depression. Call me condescending, but all my life I have been bound to my duties, that I have not allowed myself to feel sad. Of course many times I have felt sad and even fearful; with every single trial that has come my way and which through God's grace I have overcome. I frown upon this new generation of "entitled" people who whine at the smallest inconvenience, to the more extreme ones who use their anxiety and depression to murder their innocent children and then use their treatable mental health issues to get away with it and even raise money! While I had always been so tough on myself, I am aware of reasons why I am feeling a certain way. As in life and medicine, I believe that prevention is always far better than cure, and that in order to fully address what is wrong, you would need to know what exactly it is so that you can apply the right solution. Thus, proactively advocating for yourself and wanting to get better for me is the first and best step to healing. Some people perhaps just do not want to get better so that they will always have an excuse, and oftentimes, people who want things the easy way would rather blame their lives and circumstances to excuses, instead of going down the daunting and lonely path of finding the right and lasting solution. Holding ourselves accountable - be it at work, finances, life goals, health or family is the best route but is also often the road less traveled.



Humor and Heart with Nurse Even

This is Bullshift: the most toxic shift show in Las Vegas featuring world-class Filipino comedian based in the UK, Nurse Even, was a sold-out success! Nurse Even is a real-life nurse who began creating content sometime during the pandemic and thus began growing his following. Today, he has become so popular that his shows around the globe have sold out! He has recently completed the Las Vegas tour of his show and will be touring in several more States before heading to Canada next! I think he is doing a very splendid job representing our Filipino healthcare professionals, especially nurses, and giving us a voice while making light of the various issues that people within the challenging profession often face. Mabuhay ka Nurse Even, stay humble and wonderful! We wish you more years of success, and more tours. Keep making us Filipinos around the globe proud!



Congratulations, Nurse Even! Stay humble!



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BELA PADILLA CONFIRMS BREAKUP WITH MARTIN TAN

MANILA, Sept 28 (Mabuhay) -- Bela Padilla has confirmed her breakup with tech CEO Martin Tan, saying they have decided to move forward separately after several months together.

The actress shared the news on September 27, describing it as a “quick life update.”

Before revealing their breakup, Bela looked back on how people had welcomed her relationship and celebrated whenever she found love.

“I feel extremely lucky that every time love finds me, you all seem genuinely happy for me. Maybe it’s because I share what I can, and you’ve somehow come to know me as your friend who falls in love, gets heartbroken, and who you sometimes want to hug, scold, or grab a beer and cry with. Or maybe it’s because my movies have made us all believe in love a little bit again.”

The actress accompanied her message with a photo and video of moments she shared with Martin, including one of them holding hands while walking and another showing them spending time together as they looked at an art piece.

“Martin and I have been dating for the past few months, and this was the first relationship where I was truly swept off my feet. We share the same love for films, food markets, our work, and, most of all, genuinely being together,” she said.

The actress explained that she initially chose to keep the relationship private because it was the one where she felt “most like and unlike” herself.

She added: “I’m writing this because we all enjoyed the videos of us in the legazpi market. We all saw a new couple, a bit shy and awkward. But what you never got a glimpse of is us having the best and also hardest days for a couple of months now.”

While Bela did not go into detail about what led to their breakup, she said she ultimately made the decision for both of them to take separate paths.

“I’m deciding for both of us to move forward separately to save whatever we can of ourselves and how we



see each other,” she expressed. “I think sometimes, loving someone also means knowing when to let go, before you lose the good things you saw in each other.”

Bela also had nothing but kind words for Martin as she closed this chapter of their relationship.

“Martin is one of the most fun, smartest, and definitely most charming people I’ve ever met. I will always be grateful for what we shared, and I genuinely wish him nothing but the best.”

She then thanked those who had supported their relationship from afar while respecting their privacy whenever they were spotted together.

“PS: I know I never really posted or shared anything, but if I could immortalize one night here on my account, it would be this lovely, ordinary one,” she ended.

Bela and Martin first surprised netizens in early September when they confirmed that they were in a relationship. At the time, they said that they had met through a mutual friend and shared some of the things they appreciated about each other.

Martin also revealed then that they had already been together for eight months. (MNS)

MIKEE QUINTOS SHARES WHAT SHE USED TO THINK OF CHEATERS

MANILA, Sept 21 (Mabuhay) -- Since joining showbiz over a decade ago, actress Mikee Quintos admitted she has yet to get the chance to do a film project.

This year, she finally gets to fulfill that career goal after being cast in the romantic comedy film Saving Cherry, which features an ensemble cast with Barbie Forteza, Mika Salamanca, AC Bonifacio, and Sassa Girl as her close circle of friends who end up in unexpected situations after one of them gets cheated on by their new husband.

“I’m so excited for you guys to watch the movie. This is my very first, thank you. I play Beth here, who is part ng one of five na barkada,” Mikee said.

As the most senior member of their barkada in the film, Mikee revealed how she was able to bond and build chemistry with her co-stars, all of whom she was working with for the very first time.

“Unang araw pa lang, i-na-ate ako ng mga ito, diyos ko po. Nakaka-tita talaga! (laughs) In character, kasi ako ang unang kinasal sa buong barkada (dun sa movie). Kasi that night, nung nagplano kaming uminom nga at my place, eh siyempre we’re all working together and from my experience sa acting talaga, diretso kasi akong tao. Kailangan kong sabihin kong diretso kapag ilang ako, kapag kunwari we’re going to work together, I have to tell you because that’s how we become more sincere also. Kaya kong maging totoo,” she explained.

Mikee also admitted how she used to be wary of Sassa Gurl back when the latter was making a name for herself as a content creator before crossing over into showbiz.

“Diniretso ko si Sassa Gurl na parang, ‘Alam mo dati parang naiinis ako sa ‘yo.’ And then at the moment parang agad agad nagpalakpakan si Barbie, si AC tumawa, and then I had to acknowledge lang na before, it’s not a secret naman na hate ako sa isang thesis, yung thesis ko. Itong si Sassa, ginawan ng content. Sinakyan niya. Sabi ko, ‘Sino ba itong Sassa Gurl na ito? Hindi kami close. Kung sakyan niya yung hate sa akin parang, close



ba tayo ‘te?’” she added.

With Saving Cherry promising more memorable moments than expected from a barkada film, Mikee shared why doing one physically challenging scene was unforgettable for her.

When asked to reveal the craziest thing she ever did for love, Mikee admitted it was a time in her life when she did not prioritize herself.

“I think it would be setting myself aside. That’s so crazy, like who would do that, you know?” she said.

Now that she is older and more mature, the Saving Cherry actress explained how her views on infidelity have changed from being understanding to intolerant.

“For full transparency, I used to believe na wala naman talaga kasing perfect. So I used to believe na puwede, okay lang yun, and the important thing is the why, yung sagot sa kung bakit nagawa. But now, no, giving a chance to a cheater, yung chance hindi para dun sa cheater eh, yung compromise, mas nasa ‘yo. No more, that’s the answer,” she explained.

Playing the role of the older sister Beth in Saving Cherry also gave Mikee new life lessons she admitted she can use in real life.

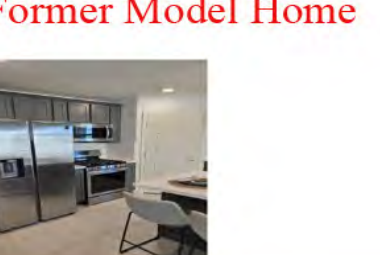
Saving Cherry stars Barbie Forteza, Mika Salamanca, Mikee Quintos, AC Bonifacio, Sassa Gurl, JC Alcantara, and Khalil Ramos. Directed by Ivan Andrew Payawal under Regal Films, the movie is now showing in cinemas nationwide. (MNS)



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A Moment of Eternal News

Sis Olive Manalo Karagdag



SOME PEOPLE WILL ESCAPE FINAL JUDGMENT, OTHERS WILL NOT

The Gospel. John 5:24
24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”
Straight from the mouth of the LORD, some people will escape judgment, ‘The Final Judgment’. On the same thought, some will NOT. According to written Scripture from the teaching of Christ, below are the ones who will face judgment
Those who are angry with a brother or sister.
Matthew 5:21-22
21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.
Those who did not settle quickly with their opponents before Christ appeared on the Last age and the last day.
Matthew 5:25
“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you y be thrown into prison.
Those who do not forgive.
Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
Those who judge.
Matthew 7:1-2 (Luke 6:37) “Do not judge, or you too will be judged 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
Anyone who does not welcome the gospel. Matthew 10:14-15 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. 15 Truly

I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.
Those who witnessed the miracles that Jesus’ disciples did, but would not believe.
Matthew 11:22-23 (Luke 12:58) 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.
Those who say that Jesus and the disciples’ power comes from Satan.
Matthew 12: 27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.
Those who say things that are not based on Truth.
Matthew 12:36-37 (Luke 19:22) 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Those who did not repent.
Matthew 12 :41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. Those who did not listen to the words of Christ Jesus
Matthew 12:42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.
John 12:48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them on the last day.
To summarize, let us examine these 10 concerns of our hearts so we will not face judgment:

1. Those who are angry with a brother or sister.
 2. Those who did not settle with their opponents before Christ appeared on the Last age and the last day.
 3. Those who do not forgive.
 4. Those who judge.
 - 5.:Anyone who does not welcome the gospel
 6. Those who witnessed the miracles that Jesus’ disciples did, but would not believe.
 7. Those who say that Jesus and the disciples’ power comes from Satan.
 8. Those who say things that are not based on Truth.
 9. Those who did not repent.
 10. Those who did not continue listening to the words of Christ Jesus.
- On the other hand, these verses tell us who will escape judgment:
- 1.Those who continuously hear the word of GOD and keep on believing Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living GOD, the Messiah. John 5:24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.
 2. Those who obey Jesus Christ's commandments.
- John 12:47 47 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.
Romans 8:1-2
There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
It is so clear in John 5:24 and Romans 8:1-2 that we will escape judgement on the last day, which is revealed in Revelations 20:11. But let us clarify what is said in the Scripture on 2 Corinthians 5:10 that states “ALL of us will face the judgement seat”. It says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat (bēmatos) of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether

good or bad.” Yes, all of us will face the judgement seat, but not to be judged by Jesus to be condemned but to receive what is due to us who offered ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 19:11-27, The Parable of Ten Minas describes that, in using the gift or talent from GOD, if you are more productive, more reward will be given to you. That applies to 2 Corinthians 5:10.
Jesus Christ also confirmed this in Matthew 19:28-29 28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.
However, in Revelations 20:11, which says, “11 Then I saw a great white throne (Megan leukon thronon) and him who was seated on it. From his presence, the earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.” This is the judgment that Jesus Christ discussed in Matthew 25:31-46, ‘The Final Judgement’.
This is different from the judgment seat (bēmatos), all of us will face in 2 Corinthians 5:10, compared to the Great White Throne (Megan leukon thronon) in Revelation 20:11, where we will escape. Only the dead in spirit, those who did not believe in Jesus Christ, will be judged, but those who continue to believe in Jesus Christ will escape facing the Great White Throne, ‘The Final Judgement’. AMEN
(For feedback, <https://amomentofeternalne.wixsite.com/amen>)



“And unto the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the AMEN, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of GOD”
- Revelation 3:14

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Mass Schedule

Diocese of Las Vegas



GUARDIAN ANGEL CATHEDRAL 302 Cathedral Way, Las Vegas NV 89109 <i>SAT : Vigil 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm</i> <i>SUN: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am</i> <i>MON-FRI: 8:00am, 12:10pm</i>	SHRINE OF HOLY REDEEMER 55 E Reno Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm</i> <i>4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-SAT: 12:10pm</i>
CHRIST THE KING 4925 S Torrey Pines Dr, LV, NV 89118 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am</i> <i>1:30pm(SP) 3:30pm</i> <i>MON-FRI: 8am</i>	ST. JOSEPH HUSBAND OF MARY 7260 W. Sahara Ave, LV NV 89117 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 5:30pm</i> <i>MON-SAT: 8am</i>
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI 2300 Sunridge Heights Pk, Henderson 89052 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm</i> <i>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am</i> <i>5:00pm Youth Ensemble</i> <i>MON-SAT: 7:45am</i>	OUR LADY OF LAS VEGAS 3050 Alta Dr, LV NV 89107 WEEKEND MASS TIMES <i>SAT: 4:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 1pm (Polish), 5:30pm (Tagalog)</i> <i>12:00pm, 5:00pm</i> DAILY MASS TIMES <i>8:00am</i> RECONCILIATION <i>3-4pm Saturday (you may also call the Parish Office to make an appointment with a priest)</i> FIRST FRIDAY: 8:00am Mass with Holy Hour to follow FIRST SATURDAY: 8:00am Mass
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON 1811 Pueblo Vista Dr, LV NV 89128 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 6:30am, 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm</i> <i>4:00pm, 6:00pm</i> <i>MON-SAT: 8:00am</i>	ST. ANTHONY of PADUA 6350 N. Fort Apache Rd, LV, NV 89149 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)</i> <i>SUN: 6:30am, 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm</i> <i>MON-SAT: 8:30am</i>
HOLY FAMILY 4490 Mountain Vista St, LV NV 89121 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm</i> <i>SUN: 6am(SP)8am, 10am(SP)12pm</i> <i>2pm(SP)5pm(SP)7pm</i> <i>MON-SAT: 7:30am</i>	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES 1111 Michael Way, LV NV 89108 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)</i> <i>SUN: 6:30am, 7:50am(SP)9:30am, 11am</i> <i>1pm, 5pm, 7pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-FRI: 7:30am</i>
ST. ANNE 1901 S. Maryland Prky, LV NV 89104 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6pm(SP)</i> <i>SUN: 6:30am(SP)8am, 10am(SP)</i> <i>12pm, 2pm(SP)5pm, 7pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-SAT: 7:30am</i>	ST. BRIDGET 220 N. 14St, LV NV 89109 <i>SAT: Vigil 5:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 7am, 8:30am(SP)10am(LATIN)12pm</i> <i>1:30pm(SP) 5pm(TAG) 7pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-FRI: 7:30am SAT: 9:00am</i>
ST. JOAN OF ARC 315 S. Casino Center Blvd, LV NV 89101 <i>SAT: Vigil 5:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 9:15am(POL)10:30am, 12:30pm</i> <i>3:30pm(SP) 5pm</i> <i>MON-FRI: 12:15pm</i>	ST. CHRISTOPHER 1849 N. Bruce St, NLV NV 89030 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)</i> <i>SUN: 6:30am(SP)8:30, 10:30, 12:30pm(SP)</i> <i>2:30pm(SP)5:30pm(SP)7:30pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-FRI: 8:30am</i>
PRINCE Of PEACE 5485 E. Charleston Blvd, LV NV 89142 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6:30pm(SP)</i> <i>SUN: 6am(SP), 8am, 10am12pm, 2pm(SP)</i> <i>5pm(Youth) 7pm(SP)</i> <i>MON-FRI: 8:30am</i>	ST. THOMAS MORE 130 N. Pecos Rd, LV NV 90074 <i>SAT: Vigil 4:30pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5:30pm(YOUTH)</i> <i>MON-FRI: 8:30am</i>
ST. VIATOR 2461 E. Flamingo Rd, LV NV 89121 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 10am(Youth)12pm, 5pm</i> <i>MON-FRI: 6:45am 8:15am</i>	ST. JOHN NEWMANN 2575 W. El Campo Grande Ave, NLV, 89031 <i>SAT: Vigil 4pm</i> <i>SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5pm</i> <i>TUE-FRI: 8am</i>
HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH 5830 Mesa Park Dr., LV NV 89135 <i>MON-SAT: 7:30am</i> <i>SAT: 4:00pm</i> <i>SUN: 7:30am</i> <i>12:00pm, 5:00pm</i>	

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FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED

2026 GOLDEN PEARL AWARDS

Honoring Leaders Who ELEVATE, EMPOWER, AND STRENGTHEN THE FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY!

by: Gloria T. Caoile

The Filipino American Heritage Foundation (FAHF) proudly announces the 2026 GOLDEN PEARL AWARDEES, three distinguished leaders whose long-standing service, advocacy, and professional excellence have uplifted the Filipino American community across Nevada and beyond.

The Golden Pearl Awards Gala will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Nevada Ballroom of the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, where this year's honorees will be formally recognized for their outstanding contributions.

2026 FAHF GOLDEN PEARL AWARDS HONOREES

- SONNY VINUYA - Southern Nevada Outreach Director, Office of Governor Joe Lombardo Recognized for his years of public service, community engagement, and bridge-building across diverse sectors in Southern Nevada

ALEX PENA - President, U.S. Filipino Veterans group; President, Santa Maria Ilocos Sur Global Association Honored for his unwavering advocacy for Filipino veterans, cultural preservation, and global community leadership

JAQUELINE DE JOYA - Immediate Past President, NaFFAA Nevada; President, Filipino American Professional Association Celebrated for her leadership in professional development, civic engagement, and empowering emerging Filipino American leaders

MIGUEL FIDOLIG PHD - Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Public Health, Biostatistician and Quantitative Researcher

FAHF proudly introduces a new GPA category - the COUPLES GOLDEN PEARL AWARD -honoring a pair whose shared leadership has strengthened the Filipino American community for more than two decades - HON. CON. BELLA AURORA 'AMIE' BELMONTE and LEO BELMONTE. Hon Con Amie's diplomatic service has created a dynamic impact on the community. Together with her husband, Leo, they are both deeply hands-on in the Consular Office. They have both served in numerous lead roles in several Fil Am organizations and continue to do so. They represent the very definition of a power couple - two leaders whose partnership amplifies their influence and whose dedication reflects the heart of the Golden Pearl: service, heritage, and community uplift.

"The Golden Pearl Awards honor individuals whose work embodies Filipino American values - empowerment, unity, cultural pride, heritage, and service to community. This year's honorees reflect decades of dedication to uplifting families, strengthening organizations, and advancing the visibility and heritage of Filipino Americans in Nevada." exclaimed Dr. Romualdo Aragon, Jr., Founder and President, Filipino American Heritage Foundation.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEVADA (FAHF) ESTABLISHED IN 2008, IS A NON-PROFIT (501)(C) 3 ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPRECIATION OF FILIPINO CULTURE AND HERITAGE. Based in Las Vegas, FAHF-NV serves as a vibrant hub for the Filipino American Community, offering a variety of cultural, educational, and social programs. FAHF places a strong emphasis on engaging the younger generation through leadership programs, scholarships, and cultural activities, ensuring that the Filipino heritage continues to be passed down and celebrated.



PRESENTS

2026 FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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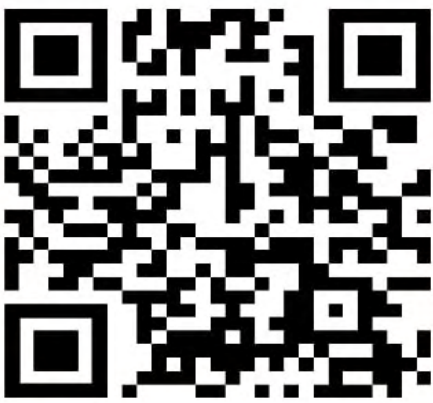
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FACAI IN ACTION

Written by: Virgilio "Bing" P. Longakit Jr., MBA, JD, CPM, CPA
President of FACAI Foundation



CELEBRATING THE 2027 MISS FIL-AM NEVADA USA QUEENS

By Virgilio "Bing" P. Longakit, Jr., CPA, CPM, MBA, JD – FACAI Foundation President

It was an evening of elegance, Filipino pride, and celebration as Fil-Am Civic Action International, Inc. (FACAI), together with the FACAI Foundation, presented the Miss Fil-Am Nevada USA 2027 Coronation Night on September 26 at Sam's Town Live in Las Vegas.

The event brought together candidates, families, community leaders, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate Filipino-American women across generations. Five divisions provided women at different stages of life an opportunity to showcase their confidence, poise, talent, cultural pride, and commitment to community.

At the conclusion of the evening, five remarkable women were crowned as the 2027 Fil-Am Nevada USA Queens: Maria Pacturan, Teens; Anne Valin, Miss; Richel Ann Farrales, Mrs.; Mary Blaire Abarquez, Mrs. Elegance; and Agnes Dockery, Senior.

The coronation was about more than crowns and gowns. The pageant reflects FACAI's continuing commitment to promoting Filipino culture, empowering women, developing leadership, and bringing generations of our community together.

Behind the glamour was an extraordinary team effort. Months of preparation were made possible by the dedication of the pageant committee, FACAI officers and members, volunteers, judges, sponsors, candidates, families, and many community supporters who generously contributed their time and talents.

As our newly crowned queens begin their reign, their titles represent both an honor and an opportunity to serve. We look forward to seeing them use their voices, talents, and visibility to support FACAI's programs and make a positive difference in the community.

Coronation Night may be over, but for our five queens, a new journey has just begun—one of leadership, culture, community, and service.

Congratulations to our 2027 Fil-Am Nevada USA Queens!

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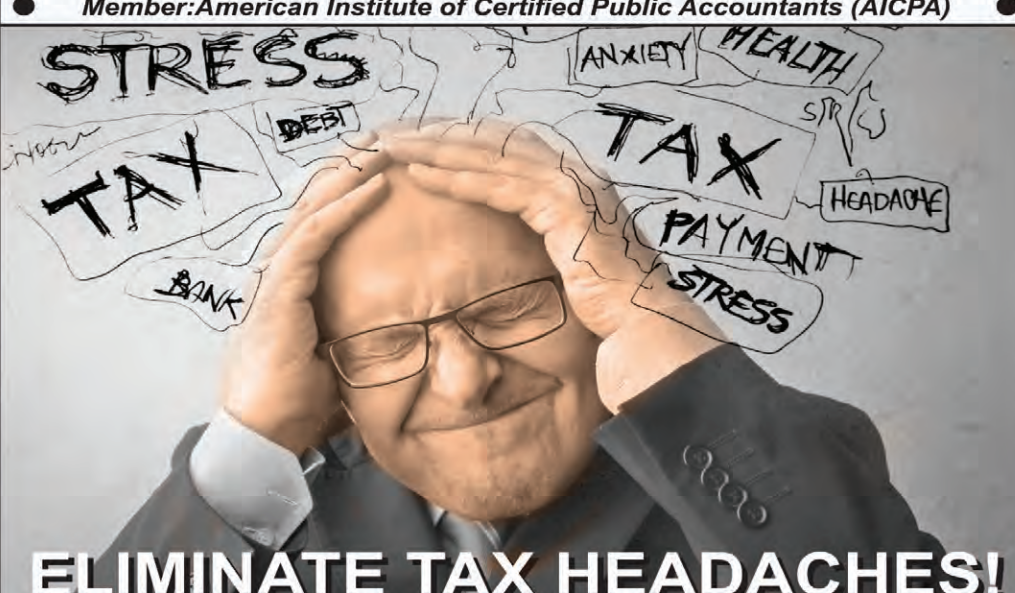
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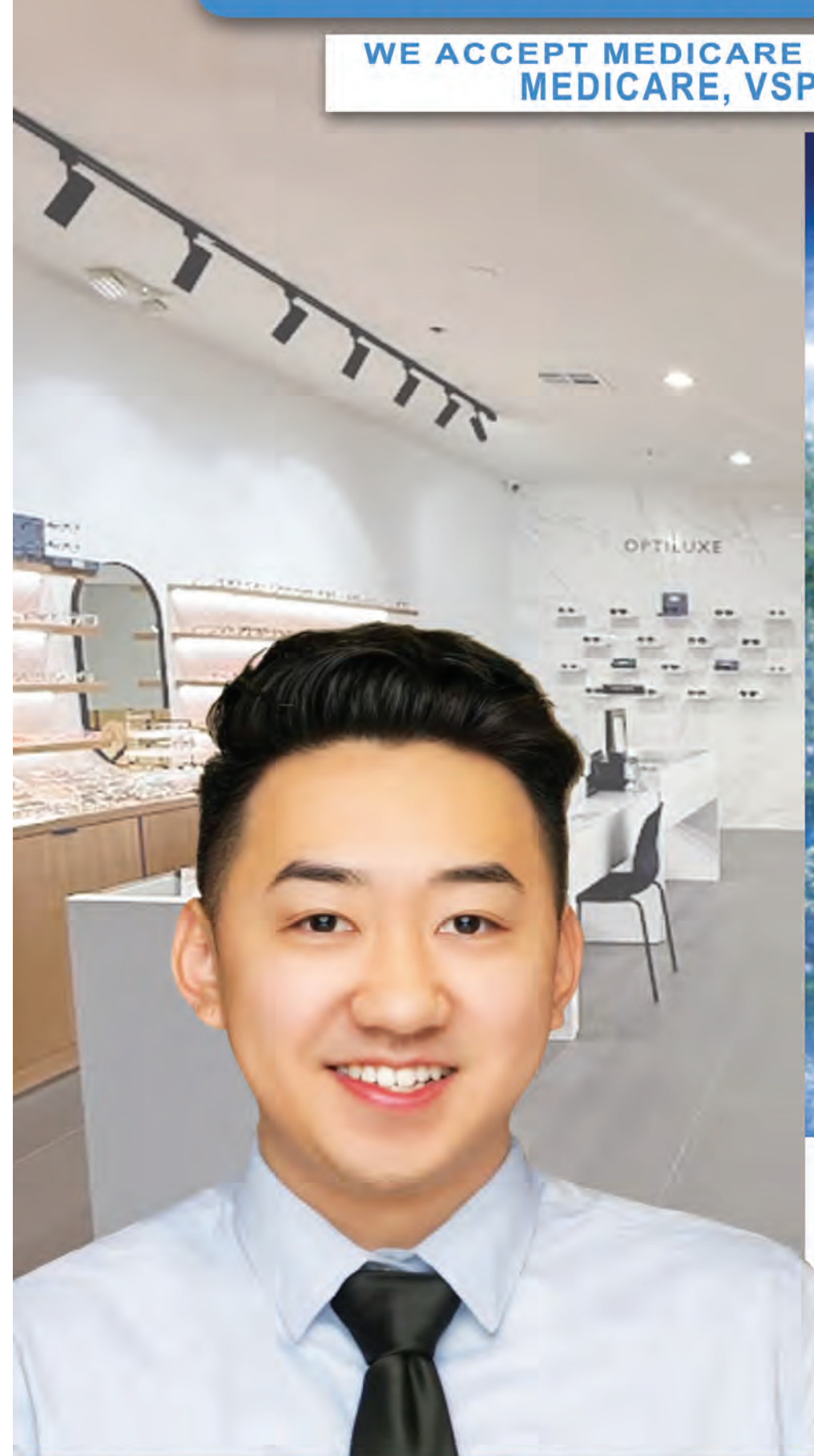


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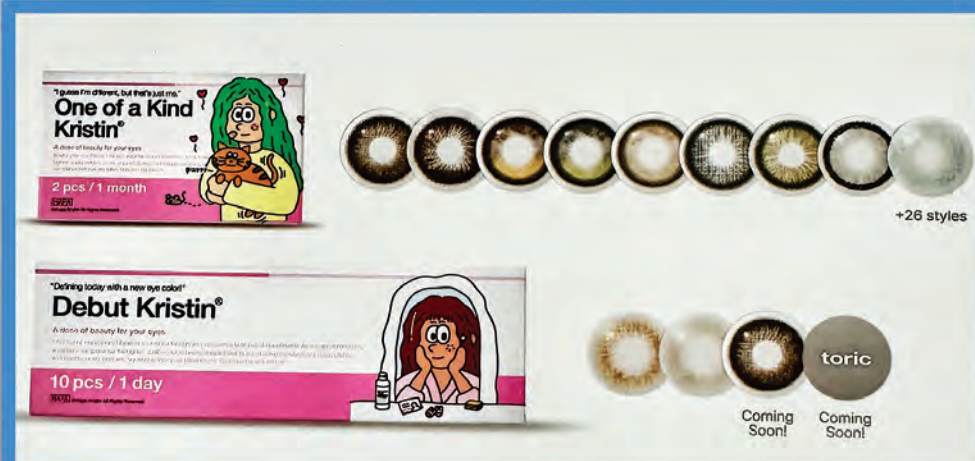
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Siu Mai, chicken feet, rice noodle rolls, Yu Sha Bao, and other common dim sum.

The chef has introduced dishes including: Mangosteen Beef Balls, Spring Water Tofu, Shrimp and Chive Dumplings, Hong Kong Style Thousand-Layer Maji Cake, and Pork Floss.

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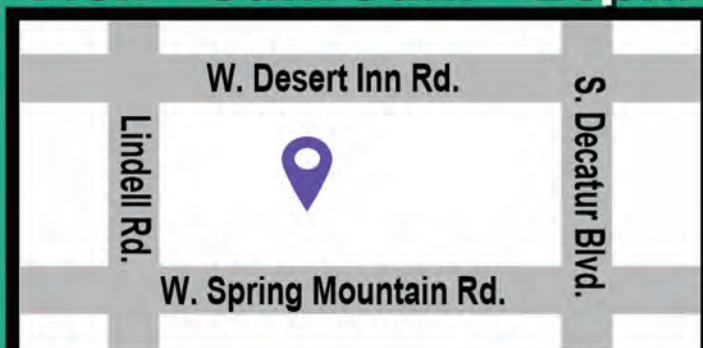
The culture of drinking tea in the Chinese community in the United States has long been a trend. The restaurant offers a variety of delicious dim sum, including steamed buns, durian buns, baked custard buns, purple sweet potato buns, and more. Traditional Cantonese Steamed Buns, Osmanthus Cake, and dozens of other refreshing Cantonese dishes. To improve service quality, in addition to investing in new dim sum options, the restaurant has upgraded its tableware, tables, and chairs, creating a fresh and improved dining environment. Starting today, they are also offering 86 different flavored heart-shaped dim sum.

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CANDY PANGILINAN OFFERS ENCOURAGEMENT TO MOM RAISING CHILD WITH AUTISM

MANILA, Oct 1 (Mabuhay) -- Candy Pangilinan offered words of encouragement to a fellow mom who opened up about the exhaustion and challenges of raising a child on the autism spectrum.

The actress is mother to 22-year-old Quentin, who has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism.

On Threads, she took to the comments section of a post to share her understanding with a fellow mom.

In the post, the netizen expressed how much she loves her child. However, she has been feeling physically and emotionally drained from the challenges of raising a child with autism.

“Mahal na mahal ko anak ko pero napapagod na ko bilang nanay niya. Sobrang hirap. Hindi ko alam kailan maging okay at madali pero ubos na ubos na ko.. hindin hindi nila ako maintindihan [hanggat] wala sila anak na may Autism!!!!” the netizen posted.

Candy, who has openly shared her own experiences as a mother, acknowledged the exhaustion while also reminding her that their children are also facing their own difficulties.

“Mommy super get you. Pagod din ako. Pero pagod din po sila for being like that. Its super hard also to be them. More for them,” Candy wrote.

She then encouraged the fellow mom to give herself time to rest and reminded her that she, too, has moments when she feels overwhelmed.

“I super understand you. Rest for a while. Take a deep breath. Marami din akong araw na Lord tulong pls!” she added.

The actress has previously been candid about experiencing similar



moments of exhaustion while raising Quentin.

In April 2025, Candy became honest about feeling physically and emotionally drained from dealing with her son's tantrums.

In one of her vlogs, she featured an emotional moment between her and Quentin during a car ride after he had an outburst. The mother and son were both in tears as Candy admitted how tired she had become.

Candy said it was the first time she had been completely honest with Quentin about feeling “drained and tired.”

“After this, Quentin is very behaved. He quite understood the conversation. He doesn't want to see mom crying,” stated the actress.

Despite the challenges, Candy continues to encourage Quentin to explore his interests and learn how to navigate life with her support.

She has supported his love for dancing, arranged voice lessons for him, encouraged his involvement in church, and even gave him the opportunity to work at a restaurant. (MNS)

SARAH GERONIMO

‘ENJOYING HER HAPPY LIFE’

MANILA, Oct 2 (Mabuhay) -- Popstar Royalty Sarah Geronimo will return to work in 2027 but is “enjoying her happy life” for now, according to Viva patriarch Vic del Rosario.

“Next year, magtatrabaho na. ‘Yun lang ang masasabi ko,” Del Rosario said when asked about Geronimo after receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

“Ayokong manggaling sa akin, pangalam na naman ng tao na hindi siya magtrabaho. Hanggang dun lang,” he added. “Sa ngayon, hindi pa siya pwede magtrabaho. She's enjoying her happy life.”

In July, Geronimo had reunited with her parents during her 38th birthday celebration, even singing a duet with her father Delfin.

Asked about Geronimo's renewed relationship with her parents, del Rosario said: “Sila naman parating ayos. Never naman sila nag-away.”

“I think maling ano ‘yun, ‘yung hindi sila bati,” he added. “Siguro lang, mas napu-publicize ngayon, pero dati na silang nag-uusap.”

“Yung kay Matteo, I think, by next year ayos na,” he also said. “Di ba, lahat naayos?”

Del Rosario also thanked the FDCP for his award, and revealed that he still aims to produce at least 20 films ev-



ery year despite struggling box office sales.

“Siyempre may mahina, may blockbuster. Ganun talaga ang film production,” he said. “Ang importante is to have more winners than losers.

“Pero kailangan mong gumawa nang tuloy-tuloy. We are committed to the film industry,” he stressed.

Viva is also now venturing heavily into theater, highlighted by their musical effort “Bongga Ka Day.” Del Rosario said there will be more in the pipeline, including a production of “Si Aida, Si Lorna at si Fe” and a musical adaptation of “The Working Girls.” (MNS)

MIGUEL TANFELIX RENEWS CONTRACT WITH GMA NETWORK

MANILA, Sept 26 (Mabuhay) -- Miguel Tanfelix has renewed his ties with GMA Network.

The homegrown actor this week signed a contract with Senior Vice-President for Programming Talent Management Worldwide and Support Group and President and CEO of GMA Pictures Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdez, First Vice-President and Head of Sparkle GMA Artist Center Joy Marcelo, Assistant Vice-President for Talent Management Vic Del Rosario, and Office in Charge for Entertainment Group and Vice-President for Drama Cheryl Ching-Sy.

In an interview with press, Miguel looked back on his 23-year-long career, expressing disbelief in how a young kid who used to watch the first season of “Starstruck” — and later competing in “Starstruck Kids” — reached this far.

Miguel said he lasted long in GMA because his values align with the network when it comes to the goal of producing superior entertainment for Filipinos.

“As an actor, that's important to me. GMA has programs that teach culture to Filipinos, history to students. Now,



I'm working on [“Taskforce Firewall,”] which spreads awareness about the dangers of modern technology. And there are also shows who give inspirations to people who dream,” Miguel said.

He added that he is grateful that such quality projects come his way,

Miguel added that GMA is his family, that it taught him about the industry and believed in him first.

“Taskforce Firewall” airs weeknights at 8:50 p.m. after “The Master Cutter.” (MNS)

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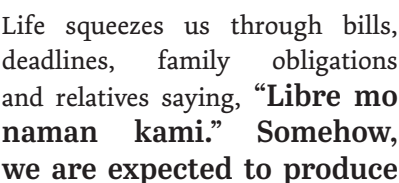
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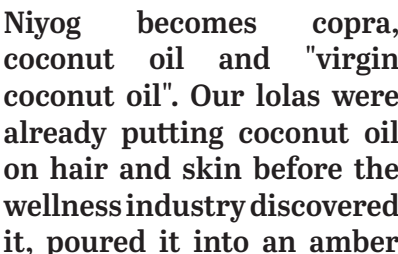
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These days, as a food entrepreneur, food stylist and incurable culinary enthusiast, I find myself looking at an actual coconut and thinking: This thing has more career options than most college graduates.



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Then there is the sap. Turn it into vinegar or sugar. Ferment it into "**tuba**". Distill it into

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After years of teaching, styling food, cooking it and now selling it, perhaps the coconut has finally taught "me" something.

We spend too much of life
worrying about remaining
what we once were.

THE COCONUT DOES NOT.

**Young, it refreshes. Mature,
it nourishes. Pressed, it
gives milk. Fermented, it
transforms. Cracked open,
every piece discovers another
purpose.**

**Perhaps resilience isn't
remaining whole.**

Perhaps wisdom is
discovering what else you can
become after life cracks you
open.

So use your coconut. Use your head. Use what you have. Reinvent yourself. Waste as little of your talent—and your life—as possible.

And if all that profound reflection becomes exhausting?

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White fish fillets
(maya-maya or lapu-lapu)

Fresh grated
coconut (pang-gisa)

Calamansi

Coconut milk
(kakang gata)

Panko
(for light crust)

Garlic, ginger,
chili, herbs

- 1 Coat fish fillets with a mixture of grated coconut, panko, salt and pepper.
- 2 Pan-fry until golden and crisp. Set aside.
- 3 In the same pan, sauté garlic, ginger and chili.
- 4 Add coconut milk and calamansi juice. Simmer until slightly thickened.
- 5 Serve the crispy fish with the warm calamansi coconut sauce. Garnish with herbs.

Delicate wrappers filled with sweet buko, juicy shrimp and a hint of ginger — served with a coconut-lime dipping sauce.



Young coconut (buko meat)

Shrimp (peeled, minced)

Dumpling wrappers

Ginger, garlic, spring onions

Coconut milk (for sauce)

- 1 Finely chop young coconut meat and combine with minced shrimp, ginger, garlic, spring onions, salt and pepper.
- 2 Place a spoonful of filling in each wrapper and fold.
- 3 Steam for 8–10 minutes until cooked and translucent.
- 4 Mix coconut milk, calamansi juice, fish sauce, chopped chili and herbs for the dipping sauce.
- 5 Serve warm or at room temperature.

Coconut milk (kakang gata)

Nata de Coco

Ripe mangoes

Toast coconut flakes

Gelatin, sugar and vanilla

- 1 Heat coconut milk, sugar and vanilla until warm. Dissolve gelatin and stir into the mixture. Pour into glasses and chill until set.
- 2 Top with fresh mango cubes and nata de coco.
- 3 Sprinkle with toasted coconut flakes.
- 4 Serve chilled. A simple dessert with the clean, tropical taste of the Philippines.

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HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN-ACTOR JAMES LEW DIED

Written by Francisco Velasquez Jr.

I have attended James Lew funeral. Hospitality and lodging are the best I have attended in my whole entire life. Food is very delicious and I have brought lots of food home that I can imagine. Outstanding and unforgettable funeral. Lots of Hollywood Actors and stuntmen have attended. Grandmaster-Hollywood Actor Mark Decascos, Grandmaster-Hollywood Actress Karen Sheperd, Grandmaster-Hollywood Actor Eric Lee, Grandmaster-Hollywood Actor T. J. Storm and Grandmaster-Champion Benny "Jet" Urquidez and many more.

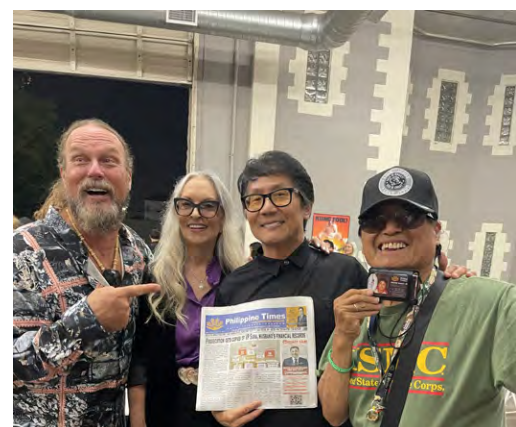
James Jene Fae Lew of Chinese descent, Lew was born James Jene Fae Lew in Escalon, California, (September 6, 1952 – August 23, 2026) was an American martial artist, stuntman and actor. He was raised in South Los Angeles. Lew began studying martial arts at the age of 14, when he began taking classes in Tang Soo Do and Choy Li Fut. He was practiced in Bak Mei Pai and Five Animals kung fu,[4] Tae Kwon Do, Jeet Kune Do, Hapkido, boxing and submission grappling. In the 1970s, he co-founded Sil Lung Kung Fu demo team with Al Leong and Douglas Lim Wong, and won several championships in martial arts forms. He made 80 on-screen film and television appearances and 46 more as a stunt coordinator or stunt double. Lew won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Stunt Coordination for his work on the series Luke Cage, 1976 The Killing of a Chinese Bookie as Asian Guard, 1976 Enforcer from Death Row as Karate Fighter, 1977 Big Time as Karate Instructor, 1979 Young Dragon as Shao Lung, 1983 Going Berserk as Kung Fu Fighter, 1984 Kill Point as Night-hawk's Gunman #1, 1985 Ninja Turf as Chan, 1986 Big Trouble in Little China as Chang Sing #1, 1987 Steele Justice as Mob Thug #5, 1988 Action Jackson as Martial Arts Instructor, 1989 Ninja Academy as Ninja Trainer, 1989 Savage Beach as Agent #1, 1989 Best of the Best as Sae Jin Kwon, 1990 Aftershock as Mr. James,

1990 China Cry as Kickboxer Instructor, 1990 Guns as Ninja #1, 1991 The Perfect Weapon as Crewcut, 1991 Night of the Warrior as Hector Sabatei, 1991 Do or Die as Lew, 1991 Showdown in Little Tokyo as Yoshida's Man, 1991 Double Impact as Unknown, 1992 Rapid Fire as Tau's Man At Laundry, 1992 Ulterior Motives as Yakuza #5, 1992 Dark Vengeance as 'Mantis', 1992 A Mission to Kill as Viet Cong, 1992 Mission of Justice as Akiro, 1993 American Ninja V as 'Viper', 1993 Hot Shots! Part Deux as Kick Boxer Opponent, 1993 Undercover Blues as Novacek's Man, 1993 Showdown as Hit Man, 1994 On Deadly Ground as Mercenary at Aegis 1, 1994 Ring of Steel as Asian Fighter, 1994 The Shadow as Mongol, 1994 Red Sun Rising as Jaho, 1994 Timecop as Knife #1, 1994 Deadly Target as Guard #2, 1994 Cage II as Chin, 1995 Ballistic as Woo, 1995 Midnight Man as Prince Samarki, 1995 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory as Mercenary, 1995 Excessive Force II: Force on Force as Lee, 1995 The Immortals as Asian Man, 1996 Night Hunter as Tom Cutter, 1996 Balance of Power (1996) as Shinji Takamura, 1996 Escape from L.A. as Saigon Shadows Gang Member, 1996 For Life or Death as Kaan Woo, 1996 Robo Warriors as Darius, 1996 Fox Hunt as 'Kung Fu' Lew, 1997 Buffy the Vampire Slayer as Vampire, 1997 The Girl Gets Moe as Brez, 1997 Red Corner as Unknown, 1997 High Voltage as Harry, 1998 The Replacement Killers as Bodyguard, 1998 Boogie Boy as Jason, 1998 Safe House as Asian, 1998 Lethal Weapon 4 as Freightler's Captain, 1998 Rush Hour as Juntao's Man In Los Angeles, 1999 Clubland as Lipton T's Sidekick, 2000 Deep Core as Lou Chang, 2000 Traffic as DEA Agent At CALTRANS, 2001 Rush Hour 2 as Triad Gangster, 2002 The Amanda Show as Nikko, 2002 Outside the Law as Cho Sung, 2002 The Real Deal as Black Belt, 2003 Paris as Mr. Fue, 2003 Sin as Leo Thamaree, 2004 The Perfect

Party as Daddy, 2006 18 Fingers of Death! as Buford Lee, 2006 The Hitman Chronicles as Draga, 2007 Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End as Asian Pirate, 2007 Rush Hour 3 as Triad Assassin, 2008 Superhero Movie as Shaolin Monk, 2008 Tropic Thunder as Flaming, Dragon Member at Compound, 2009 Star Trek as Romulan, 2009 The Carbon Copy as Thug, 2009 Angel of Death as Tommy, 2009 Ballistica as Chinese Guard #1, 2009 Nephilim as Unknown, 2010 Chuck as Anad Chenerad, 2010 Taken by Force as Choy, 2010 Inception



Hollywood Actor and Television Personality MARK DECASCOS, Grandmaster-Professor and Hollywood Actress KAREN SHEPERD, PHILIPPINE NEWS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA COLUMNIST & RAMA NEWS REPORTER ECRF VICE COMMANDER FRANK B. PARAS JR. Actor BRUCE WEN.



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as Unknown, 2012 The Girl from the Naked Eye as Eddie, 2012 Safe as Underground Casino Guard, 2012 Sleeping Dogs as Sifu Kwok (voice), 2012 Battleship as Unknown, 2013 G.I. Joe: Retaliation as Chinese Leader, 2014 Bad Country as Doctor, 2014 Tengu, The Immortal Blade as Asura, 2015 Frankenstein as Hotel Manager, 2016 Beyond the Game as Unknown, 2016 Breakout as Captain Rusch, 2017 Star Raiders: The Adventures of Saber Raine as Sinjin, 2018 Cucuy: The Boogeyman as Beat Cop and 2019 American Bistro as Angry Man #1.



South Korean American Martial Artist, actor, director, screenwriter and film producer PHILLIP RHEE, KLC of Orange County Area Minister, Filipino American U. S. Marines Association Chaplain, United Mexican American Veterans Association Chaplain Native American Veterans Association Chaplain Frank B. Paras Jr. & Hollywood Stuntman-Actor BENNY "Jet" URQUIDEZ.



Professional Boxer Fernando Vargas Jr., TRACMA Undeafated 200 Amateur Fighter Frank Paras Jr. and Candidate for Anaheim Mayor Alfredo Rodriguez;

ASHLEY ORTEGA SAYS BEAUTY QUEEN ROLE IN ‘RED CROWN’ IS DREAM COME TRUE

MANILA, Sept 21 (Mabuhay) -- Ashley Ortega said her role in the upcoming pageant film, “Red Crown,” fulfilled a dream for her.

The Sparkle star said one of the roles she has never done before is a beauty queen.

“My mother dreamed of me joining pageants,” Ashley said in Filipino. “At least, it finally came true.”

Ashley said she had experience joining a beauty pageant before, but only once.

“It was my first and my last,” she said. “I was very young at that time, around 15, but I won the crown.”

When she began her showbiz career, Ashley said she enjoyed being an actress more.

“Red Crown” is a satirical comedy that brings together some of the country’s well-known beauty queens and actresses, including Michelle Dee, Sanya Lopez, and Shuvee Etrata.



It is directed by Dominic Zapata and will premiere in cinemas in October.

Ashley last appeared in the GMAAfternoon Prime series “Apoy sa Dugo.” (MNS)

ANNE CURTIS RESPONDS TO ‘RETOKADA’ COMMENT: ‘MY DAUGHTER AND I ARE BOTH BEAUTIFUL’

MANILA, Sept 24 (Mabuhay) -- Kapamilya actress and host Anne Curtis responded to a claim by a netizen about going under the knife.

On her X (formerly Twitter) account, the celebrity mom asserted that she isn’t “retokada” and even gave the netizen a virtual hug despite the negative comment made about her and her daughter, Dahlia.

“Retokada yarn? Exhibit A - anak,” the netizen said.

In the netizen’s post, he shared a screenshot of Anne who graced a red carpet event. The netizen made several other comments under the Kapamilya actress’s a post about how she looked in that event to which she responded with grace.

“Can proudly say I’m not retokada at all and for me, for me lang naman, my daughter and I are both beautiful,” Anne fired back.

While she is known to not answer rude comments directed towards her, the It’s Showtime host took the time to draft a response to the netizen.

“I usually don’t give people like you the time of the day but wala lang. I don’t know who hurt you or why you’re so angry with me but nonetheless sending you some kindness maybe you some in your life. Big virtual hug I mean that, sincerely,” she said.



While Anne doesn’t always respond to negative comments thrown at her on social media, she previously expressed how she always takes accountability for the mistakes she has made.

“I honestly think that’s why I’ve lasted this long in the industry. 28 years!!! I’ve never had a squeaky clean image. I’ve had my fair share of mistakes. Owned up to them publicly and learned from them. Stayed true to my core. Thanks for standing by me everyone,” she previously expressed. (MNS)

LIZA SOBERANO HOPES TO INSPIRE FILIPINOS TO DREAM BIGGER

MANILA, Sept 25 (Mabuhay)

-- Actress Liza Soberano took a gamble when she left her career at its peak in the Philippines to pursue Hollywood.

Now, she sees her role in DreamWorks Animation’s upcoming “Forgotten Island” as proof that the risk was worth taking.

Soberano, who stars alongside H.E.R. in the animated film, said she hopes the project will also show fellow Filipinos that pursuing an uncertain dream can be worth the sacrifice.

“I definitely feel that when I got that call, and they were like, you’re casted in this movie, because I thought this would be the perfect chance to kind of kind of show Filipinos that it’s worth it to invest in your dreams. Because I feel like when I started pursuing my career in America, I think there was a lot of questions around why I would leave my career at its peak to pursue something that was uncertain. And for me, I knew the risk that I was taking at the time, but for me, you to have to weigh the pros and the cons of everything you do and for me, I value learning and growing as a human being and as a professional. And so that’s kind of what I wanted to prove, I guess, to the Filipino people,” Soberano said in the latest vlog of Kar-en Davila.

Soberano said she also hopes to inspire Filipinos to dream bigger, pointing to the “dreamer mentality” she has come to appreciate in the United States.

“Oone thing that I learned about being in America is, and that I really appreciate about American culture, is there’s this strong, like, dreamer mentality. I feel like, in America. No limits. And, like, when people talk about their dreams and they share it with other people, other people encourage them



to go after it. No matter how absurd it sounds,” she said.

She added: “Here in the Philippines, I feel like when people have dreams, sometimes they’re held back. ... and I was trying to decipher, what is that? Like, why is it that we don’t have a lot of self belief? I want to encourage people to to keep dreaming big, because even if it doesn’t seem like it’s possible, because of where you’re at right now, as long as you keep, like, putting it out there, just saying what it is that you want, what you what you want to achieve. I feel like the universe and God has a way of, like, bringing it to you.

Soberano was one of the biggest stars in local show business when she decided to venture into the unknown and in 2022 she moved to the US to pursue her dream in Hollywood.

Soberano returned to Philippines to promote “Forgotten Island,” which was released in Philippine theaters on September 23. (MNS)

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Every Sunday 930 - 10:00 am
Comcast channel 152

Chicago, IL
Every Sunday 10:30 - 11:00 am
Comcast channel 691

New York/ New Jersey
Every Sunday 9:30- 10:00 am
Time Warner channel 1519

Northern California
Every Saturday
12:30-1:00 pm (PST)
Channel 26

Southern California
Every Friday
4:30-5:00 pm (PST)
Channel 18

San Diego
Every Saturday
10:00-10:30 am (PST)
Time Warner Channel 17

Southern California
Every Wednesday & Thursday
6:30-7:00 am (PST)
Channel 20

Hawaii & Maui
Every Saturday
3:30-4:00 pm (HST)

Canada
Every Saturday
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Sunday School: 9:30 am
Divine Worship: 11:00 am
Watchers' Service: 3:00 pm
Seekers' Service: 6:00 pm

Tuesdays:

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Thursdays:

Prayer Meeting: 7:00 pm

Saturdays:

Family Devotion: 7:00 am
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ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL SET TO LIGHT UP LAS VEGAS ON OCTOBER 24

New name, new location and even bigger celebration of AANHPI culture, food and community

LAS VEGAS, NV (September 24, 2026) — The countdown is officially on! The Asian Lantern Festival is just one month away, bringing an unforgettable evening of culture, food, entertainment and community to Las Vegas on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

Formerly known as the ACDC Night Market, the newly reimagined Asian Lantern Festival will take place at its new home, Desert Breeze Event Center, 8455 Kids Zone Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89147, from 5 to 11 p.m.

Presented by the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC), the Asian Lantern Festival invites Southern Nevada to mark the calendar and experience the rich and diverse cultures of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community—all in one vibrant evening.

From glowing lanterns and authentic flavors to live performances, local vendors and family-friendly activities, the festival will showcase the traditions, talents and entrepreneurial spirit that make the AANHPI community an important part of Southern Nevada.

“We are officially one month away, and the excitement is building,” said Vida Lin, Founder and President of the Asian Community Development Council. “The Asian Lantern Festival is about bringing people together. Whether you come for the food, the entertainment, the cultural experiences or simply to spend time with family and friends, we want everyone to feel welcome and connected. We can’t wait to open the doors at our new home at Desert Breeze and celebrate with the community.”

Featured Food & Beverage Vendors Include: • Pipeline Malasadas • Killah Kine Shrimp • Bulldogis Unleashed • Kinzoo Izakaya • Kuzikero Pinoy BBQ

• Stick with Chicken • Ichiza • Vanilla Creamery • Onigiri • Urban Matcha • ShareTea • Brewtea Bar • Cosmic Fluff • Coconery

Additional vendors, performers and festival experiences will be announced in the weeks leading up to the event

SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Asian Lantern Festival is more than a celebration—it is also an opportunity to support local entrepreneurs and give back to the Southern Nevada community.

Participating vendors will keep 100% of their sales, allowing small businesses to benefit directly from the festival while introducing their products, services and cuisine to thousands of potential customers. All net proceeds from the festival will support ACDC’s

programs and services, including community resources, health initiatives, education, workforce development and outreach programs serving families throughout Southern Nevada.

For the latest updates, visit www.asianlanternfestivallv.com and follow the Asian Lantern Festival on social media.

ABOUT THE ASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to building, connecting, and educating the AANHPI community in Nevada. ACDC was officially chartered in 2015 in Las Vegas and opened the Healthy Asians & Pacific Islanders (HAPI) Medical Center in August 2022. Among the services ACDC offers are voter education, health insurance enrollment assistance, citizenship application assistance, vaccination clinics, culturally sensitive food distribution, College Readiness Bootcamp, and the Asian Lantern Festival.

For more information about the Asian Community Development Council, visit www.acdcnv.org.





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SC JUNKS PETITION VS. JUNE 3 SESSION THAT INSTALLED GATCHALIAN ACTING SENATE PRESIDENT

MANILA, Oct 2 (Mabuhay) -- The Supreme Court has dismissed the petition questioning the constitutionality of the Senate session on June 3, 2026, when 12 senators held a session, declared all seats vacant, and elected Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian the new Senate President Pro Tempore.

Gatchalian, in the same session, assumed the post of acting Senate President as he could not be elected Senate President with fewer than 13 votes.

The Senate at that time could not hold sessions after the previous majority decided to skip the proceedings and kept the chamber without a quorum.

“The Court resolved to dismiss the petition for certiorari for failure to show sufficiently that the respondents committed grave abuse of discretion in holding a session on June 3, 2026, which, on the contrary, appears to be in accord with the facts and applicable law and jurisprudence,” read the SC resolution dated August 26, 2026.

Gatchalian said his office received the notice about the resolution and said he respected the resolution.

“The Court found no basis to question the holding of that session, and noted that it appears consistent with the facts and the law. We respect the Court and its resolution,” Gatchalian said.

“The resolution is consistent with what we have maintained from the start. On June 3, the Senate convened in accordance with the Constitution and established jurisprudence so that the chamber would not be left unable to function,” he added.

“The proceedings of that day were likewise conducted in keeping with the established rules and precedents of the Senate. That responsibility belongs to every member, and the Senate will continue to carry it out as one institution,” Gatchalian said.

Quorum of 12

Then Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and the previous majority had skipped two session days before June 3, and after the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for plunder.

With the previous majority opting not to attend the sessions, the 24-member Senate could not function without a quorum of at least 13.

Sen. Francis Escudero, a member of the previous majority, made a surprise appearance at the plenary on June 3 and helped reach a quorum. He was the only member of the previous majority bloc to attend the session.

Citing the Supreme Court jurisprudence on Avelino vs. Cuenco, the new majority bloc said they had a quorum with 12 members present.

“We’re very fortunate that one of the members of the majority before—Senator Chiz Escudero—do not conform and believe in what they are fighting for,” Erwin Tulfo told reporters at a media briefing.

Gatchalian was elected Senate President Pro Tempore after the Senate reconvened in the June 3 session.

Gatchalian presided over the session and called for the Senate secretary to call the roll. When the secretary refused, Gatchalian directed the deputy secretary for legislation to do the same.

He then declared a quorum with 12 senators present.

With no objections, the motion was approved.

Sotto made a motion to proceed with the election of the Senate President Pro Tempore, then nominated Gatchalian to the post.

Senator Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri seconded the motion.

“Duly seconded, the motion is approved. Thank you dear colleagues,” Gatchalian said.

Zubiri was then elected as chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules.

Once elected, Zubiri moved to proceed with Gatchalian’s oath-taking. He took his oath before Sotto.

Zubiri later declared that Gatchalian would serve as the acting Senate President.

“Let the record reflect that the chair, as Senate President Pro Tempore, shall serve as acting President pursuant to Rule 5... presiding officer of the Senate pursuant to Rule 5, Section 14(c) and 5 of the Rules of the Senate,” he said.

Aside from the new committee chairmanships, the Senate also elected Ray Bantug Jr. as the Senate secretary and retired Police Major General Alfredo Sotto Corpus as the Sergeant-At-Arms.

‘Sine die adjournment’

Without physically appearing before the Senate session, Cayetano on June 3 declared the sine die adjournment of the upper chamber through a memorandum that was circulated to senators present at the plenary hall.

Former Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales distributed the document dated June 3 to senators who were present at the plenary hall during the last session day of Congress.

Except for Escudero, no other member of the Cayetano-led bloc attended the plenary session, marking the third consecutive day the lawmakers skipped the proceedings.

That night, Cayetano warned of what he described as a brewing constitutional crisis, as he appealed for calm and urged that the Senate not be “padlocked” amid tensions over leadership and committee control.

“Do not padlock the Senate. Do not use the excuse that there is a rally; there is always a rally at the Senate anyway,” he said.

“Do not tempt the Filipino people to come out in thousands, [hundreds of] thousands, and millions,” he added.

In 2020, it was Cayetano who ordered the padlocking of the House of Representatives amid a leadership term-sharing dispute with Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco.

The embattled Senate President issued the remarks after another controversy erupted on Tuesday as 12 senators wrested control of the chamber, replacing key committee chairmanships. (MNS)

RECTO: DIZON, LOPEZ APPOINTMENTS EXTENDED, CA CONFIRMATION TO FOLLOW

MANILA, Oct 1 (Mabuhay) -- President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has extended the appointments of Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon and Department of Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said on Wednesday.

“We’ve extended the appointments of Secretary Dizon and Secretary Banoy. At the appropriate time, the President will submit for confirmation (of the Commission on Appointments),” Recto told the media following the Senate budget hearing on the Office of the President.

Recto clarified that despite the extension, the appointments will still undergo confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA) at the appropriate time.

rating din tayo diyan, but for now the President extended the appointments,” he explained.

Recto added his own appointment as Executive Secretary will also be submitted to the CA for confirmation.

“Yes, sigurado dadaan tayo diyan, pretty soon. My understanding is that at least I have a year so I was appointed Secretary or Executive Secretary on November 18th I think that’s a non-issue at this point in time.”

The issue over the appointments surfaced after Senator Imee Marcos questioned Dizon’s appointment during the DPWH budget briefing in the Senate.

Marcos earlier cited the 1987 Administrative Code, which provides a one-year limit for a temporary designation.(MNS)

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WHO ARE YOUR RESTAURANT CUSTOMERS?

The Las Vegas Customer Is Changing. Is Your Business Changing With Them?

chamber matters

An update on business news, developments and events from The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada (FACCGN).

by: JOEL ENRIQUEZ, President



Join us and be part of the chamber that loves small businesses. Log in to our website <https://www.faccgn.org/> Or email us at info@faccgn.org



THE NEW LAS VEGAS CUSTOMER is multi cultural, digitally connected, value conscious and increasingly willing to explore businesses outside traditional categories.

in particular, are feeling the pressure. A number of familiar Las Vegas dining establishments have closed in 2026, from neighborhood restaurants to well-known names on the Strip. **Eater Vegas** has documented a continuing stream of restaurant and bar closures throughout the year.

Yet there is an interesting contradiction here.

Las Vegas remains a huge consumer market. In 2025, the destination welcomed approximately 38.5 million visitors, generated \$50.8 billion in direct visitor spending and produced an estimated \$80.9 billion in total tourism economic impact.

So if people are still coming to Las Vegas and billions of dollars are still circulating through the local economy, why are some businesses struggling?

Perhaps one answer is that the customer is changing faster than some businesses are changing with them.

Consider the people who live here.

They buy homes and cars. They start businesses. They attend concerts, festivals and sporting events. They celebrate birthdays, weddings, graduations and cultural holidays.

And they have preferences.

For businesses, this raises a fundamental question: Are we still marketing to the Las Vegas customer of yesterday—or are we paying attention to the customer of today?

The Asian consumer deserves particular attention, not because Asians represent one homogeneous market—they certainly do not—but because the Asian population itself is diverse and increasingly established in Southern Nevada.

A Filipino family, a Korean professional, a Chinese-American household, a Vietnamese entrepreneur and a Japanese tourist may have completely different tastes and spending habits. But collectively, Asian consumers represent an increasingly significant part of the region’s economic landscape.

dishes? Does it offer options that accommodate different cultural preferences? Does its advertising reach consumers in the communities where they actually live and work? Does its social-media presence speak to younger, multicultural customers?

And perhaps most importantly, does the business understand that an Asian customer is not necessarily looking only for Asian food?

A Filipino consumer may enjoy a steakhouse. A Korean customer may love Mexican food. An Indian-American family may become regulars at an Italian restaurant. Cultural identity influences consumption, but it does not dictate it.

This distinction matters.

The challenge facing today’s restaurant owner isn’t simply getting people through the door. It is understanding what those people value—and delivering an experience that gives them a reason to return.

The changing customer also

something much more valuable: relationships.

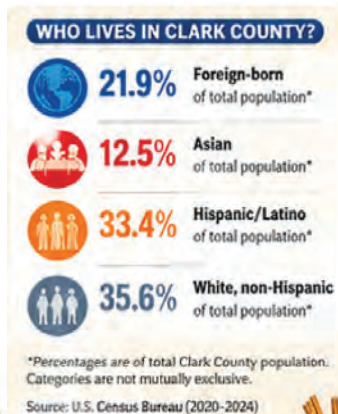
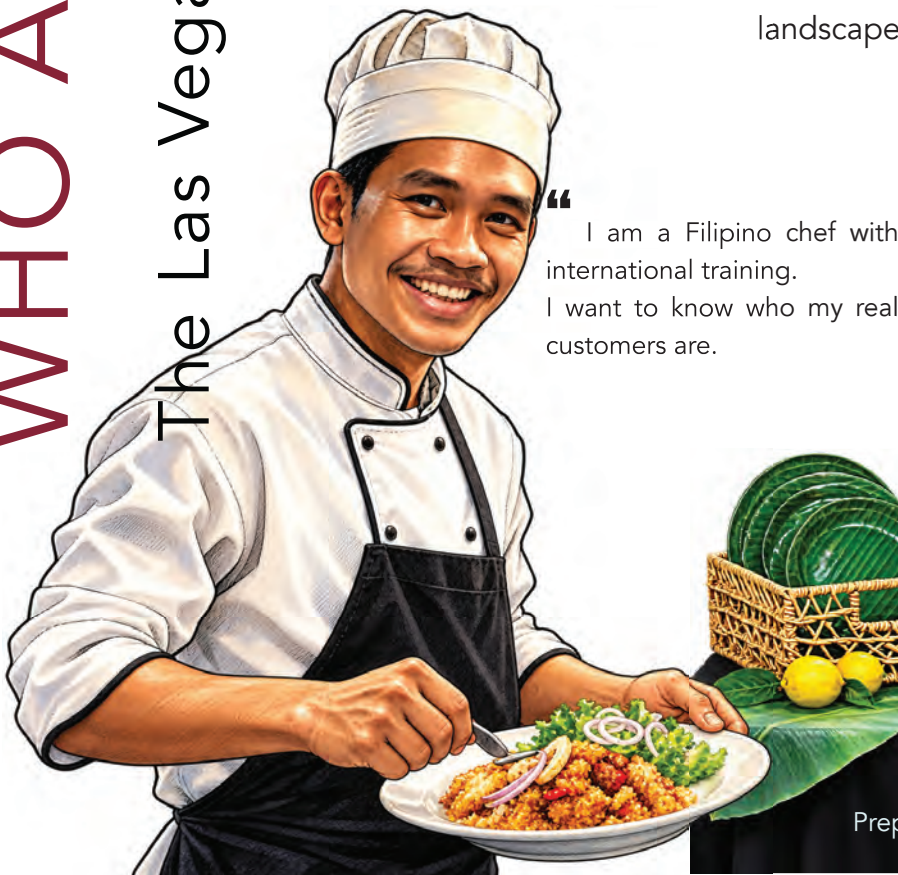
And those relationships increasingly cross cultural lines.

Perhaps the future of Las Vegas business is not about finding one “typical” customer. There may no longer be such a customer.

The new Las Vegas customer is multicultural, digitally connected, value-conscious and increasingly willing to explore businesses outside traditional categories. Some are immigrants. Some are second-generation Americans. Some are longtime residents. Others are recent arrivals.

They are all part of the same marketplace.

For struggling businesses, recognizing that reality won’t solve every problem. Food costs, labor, rent, insurance, competition and changing consumer spending habits remain very real challenges. Restaurant closures are not necessarily evidence that businesses failed to



FOOD BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.



Prepping for a Filipino themed buffet.

For decades, the Las Vegas customer was easy to picture.

He or she was the tourist arriving from California, the convention attendee, the casino visitor, the couple celebrating a special occasion, or the local family looking for a place to eat on the weekend.

But Las Vegas is changing—and so is the customer.

That question has become increasingly important as businesses navigate a more challenging economic environment. Restaurants,

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21.9% of Clark County residents are foreign-born, while Asians make up 12.5% of the county’s population. Hispanics or Latinos account for 33.4%. The Census Bureau’s 2024 American Community Survey estimates approximately 181,500 foreign-born residents of Clark County were born in Asia.

These aren’t simply demographic statistics. They represent consumers.

They shop. They dine out. They travel. They send their children to schools.

For restaurants, this can be especially important.

Food is one of the most immediate ways demographics become visible. Las Vegas has long celebrated international cuisine, but today’s opportunity goes beyond simply putting another ethnic restaurant on the menu.

It is about understanding who is sitting at the table.

Does the restaurant understand the family that prefers to dine in larger groups? Does it recognize customers who value sharing

means that businesses need to look beyond tourists.

Tourism remains the engine of the Las Vegas economy, but the local population provides an entirely different kind of economic stability. Visitors may come for three days. Residents can become customers for years.

That is a powerful distinction.

A restaurant that depends exclusively on occasional visitors must continually find new customers. A restaurant that develops a loyal local customer base can build

understand demographics; every closure has its own circumstances.

But demographics can reveal where opportunity is emerging.

The question for Las Vegas businesses, therefore, may not simply be “Where are the customers?”

They are here. The more important question is:

Do we know who they are?
-JRE

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