

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

Making time for the things that matter

“Carpe diem! Seize the day!” —Horace

them, without having to put them on schedule as though accommodating them in your already crowded appointment book.

In the eighties and nineties of the past century, the idea of “quality time” meant that since there was only a limited amount of time to spend with children, a busy parent “squeezed” as much as could be squeezed out of spending an hour or two or an afternoon with his children once in a great while. While spending limited quality time was definitely better than being an absentee parent altogether, there is still no substitute for spending real “quantity time” with children, even if it means merely hanging out with them.

There is a vast array of things that children are offered to learn outside of school—activities that by themselves are intended to prime and prepare them for success in their adult lives, to make

them more intelligent, more artistic, more poised with greater self-esteem, more athletic and basically more well-rounded supposedly to be able to compete in the real world. The focus of these activities is on the future rather than the present moment. Try not to rob them of the joy of the moment in the name of the future.

Well-meaning but basically misguided immigrant parents tend to overcompensate and stretch themselves to give their children the advantage they themselves did not have. Some push their children onto too many activities to give them an edge for the outside world at some future date. As promising as these activities may seem, one needs to achieve a sense of balance and understand if the tendency to do so is a personal response to a sense of insecurity. It could be that parents are merely sub-

limiting their inadequacies and imposing these on the lives of their own children. It is not necessary to enlist children in each and every activity that promises to give them an edge.

Spending real time with children and kicking back can yield even more tangible results in improved relationships and a better quality of family life.

Nota Bene: My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AJPI. I encourage you to read my book, “The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life: How to Survive, How to Thrive, How to be Fully Alive.” If you have very little time to read, browse through “The Immigrant’s Little Quote Book for Success.” Your local public library might have these books available or you can request your librarian to purchase copies. These are also available at amazon.com or immigrantsuccess.com. Past articles are on the Internet at www.asianjournal.com. To ask questions, send feedback and requests, e-mail monnettemaglaya@sbcglobal.net or monnettemaglaya@asianjournalinc.com.

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials – regardless of political affiliation – in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

Filipino leader in Passaic Advocates for more political participation

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

CARLOS Sinnung has been pushing for the Filipino community’s participation in the political process, and he believes that his election to the Board of Education in Passaic back in 2001 is a step in the right direction.



Carlos Sinnung

The veteran civic leader and accountant topped the school board elections in the City of Passaic, NJ, back then as he bested eight other candidates in a hotly contested race. A native of Pamplona town in Cagayan Valley, Sinnung came to the United States in 1969.

“I started putting people together when I came here. Because of my experience and the experiences of my friends, we felt that the only way that we can get a piece of the recognition, inclusion and respect is to band together and do social work first,” Sinnung told the Asian Journal.

He organized social activities in the city, among them the annual Philippine Day parade and festival as a way to show the strength and numbers of the Filipinos in the area.

It is also a little-known fact that their group has always highlighted the cause of the Filipino war veterans and that they have a monument in Passaic to honor these veterans. “We knew already the importance of highlighting that so that the public will know that we Filipinos have been serving this country even during the war,” he shared.

After laying the groundwork came the next step, a seat at the local school board, which was to test the strength and the level of acceptance in the community. Sinnung holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Commerce from the Far

Continued on PAGE 11

THE FILIPINO SURVIVAL KIT



LIZA LEGASPI

how much savings you have in your bank account or how much you make. He/she is more interested in your money.

- He/she only spends time with you when it’s convenient.
- He/she does not take you to meet his/her friends, co-workers or family.
- He’s/she’s not consistent. Calls you or visits you occasionally only.
- He/she constantly argues with you when you express your opinion.

My advice is to meet or date someone who was referred to you by a trusted source. Do not go out with strangers and fall on the trap of trusting someone after only a few dates. This holds true for

Date safely

friends or boyfriends/girlfriends. Do not be afraid to lose the person just because you do not give in to their wishes. A true friend will understand and will wait for your decision at your own pace or time.

Take it easy and do not feel bad. If in case this person does not understand you, you will find someone who will. Just be patient. Remember to also pray for guidance. I’ve always told myself that if everything fails, I will ask God to show me the way. Sometimes, we don’t like the answer but most of the time He has great reasons. We just need to give it our utmost attention when the answer is not the one we want.

Do not be sad. Actually, you should be happy because He’s saving you from committing a mistake.

I hope this week’s article is

able to help everyone from age 20 to 70 or older who is seeking to date.

Next week’s article is about keeping your relationship interesting and fun even if you’ve been married or have dated for over four or five years. For those interested on a topic, please email me at lizlegaspi@yahoo.com. I’ll be waiting. Please keep smiling. Life is good.

Liza Legaspi is an experienced marketer both in the Philippines and the US. She has been focusing on diversity groups for over 20 years. Liza is currently employed by a well-known Asian advertising agency. She has a wide range of experience in marketing consumer products and services.

The items listed are mere suggestions and no guarantees that it will work for you. The tips provided worked for me and I am not making any promises nor will I be liable for any outcome.

Medy Cabanilla

OCHOCO

SEPTEMBER 2, 1931-SEPTEMBER 25, 2008



Medy Cabanilla Ochoco, age 77, died at LAC – USC Hospital on Thursday September 25, 2008, following an extensive brain injury resulting in a brain hemorrhage.

She was born on September 2, 1931 in Binalonan, Pangasinan, Philippines to Mauricio and Alberta Cabanilla. Medy was the second eldest child of a family of seven siblings.

Medy migrated to the United States in 1966 and resided in Los Angeles, California. Medy worked as a seamstress in Downtown Los Angeles for several years and then became a housekeeper for Downtown Hilton for twelve years until retiring at the age of 65.

Medy lived her life to the fullest. She enjoyed taking care of her two grandchildren, Christopher and Kyle. She loved traveling all over the world with her husband and best friends, shopping in downtown, and gambling in Las Vegas. She had the passion for gardening; looked over her bitter melon plants, orchids, persimmon trees and loved to cook and share her famous Pinakbet. She was a big Lakers fan, she would only watch the game if they were winning. She also enjoyed watching the Filipino game show Wowowee. She was a great storyteller and loved to tell jokes to make people laugh.

Medy is survived by her husband Roger Ochoco, daughter Marites Mae Queano, son-in-law Manuel F. Queano Jr., grandchildren Christopher Julius and Manuel Kyle Queano, and sisters Susana Peralta and Emilia Peralta.

Funeral services for Medy Cabanilla Ochoco will be held at 9:30 am, Saturday, October 4, 2008 am in the Risen Christ Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, CA. Viewing services will be held at Holy Cross Mortuary located inside the cemetery at 3 - 9 pm on Thursday, Oct. 2, and Friday, Oct 3, 2008. There will be a rosary on Friday night at 6:30 pm.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. We will remember her life and the sweet memories we shared with her forever. Please remember her with a laugh and a smile and not with tears. She will always be remembered as a loving wife, a beloved mother and grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

For more information please call: 213-250-3215