



MOTHER-AND-SON SHOWBIZ ICONS ADD SPARKLE TO CITIZEN PINOY THIS SUNDAY! Brilliant and multi-awarded actress Ms. Gina Alajar (center) and her son, certified heartthrob, Geoff Eigenmann (left) join "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) to answer your immigration questions. Watch this exciting & informative episode of the most popular immigration program on television - Citizen Pinoy - this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Tuesday, at 11:35 pm (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 midnight with replays on Sunday at 8 am and Thursday at 7 pm, all PST; and on ANC- Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday (Manila time).

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

The March 2009 priority dates

date for unskilled (other) priority date remained the same at March 15, 2003.

Each month, the Visa Office of the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that visas (or green cards) would now be available for persons whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below. If your priority date was "current", but retrogressed before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the US), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of, an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different.
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(Advertising Supplement)

The March priority dates for the Philippines are as follows:		
FAMILY CATEGORY:		Priority Date
First Preference	Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)	July 15, 1993 (In February 2009, the priority date was the same)
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	July 1, 2004 (In February 2009, the priority date was June 1, 2004)
Third Preference	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	December 1, 1997 (In February 2009, the priority date was October 15, 1997.)
Fourth Preference	Married sons and daughters of US citizens.	June 8, 1991 (In February 2009, the priority date was June 1, 1991.)
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/skilled workers	May 1, 2005 (In February 2009, the priority date was the same.)
Other workers	Non-skilled workers	March 15, 2003 (In February 2009, the priority date was the same.)

JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

The advantages of working with a healthcare staffing agency

WHY choose a healthcare staffing agency when looking for a job?

There has been a lot of bad rap about healthcare staffing agencies in the past. This is mainly due to some agencies' inability to get their applicants a job or the unpleasant work environment in facilities where they are placed. Not to mention that some of these agencies overwork their clinicians and underpay them. Although some of these stories are true, healthcare staffing firms that are legitimate, professional and dedicated have a lot to offer a healthcare professional who is looking for a job. Below are a few reasons why you should consider going through an agency to get a job in a healthcare facility.

Immediate access to the best opportunities:

In an effort to reduce costs and minimize the management attention necessary in dealing with complex hiring processes, a lot of facilities including some of the best and largest, outsource recruitment and other human resource management tasks to health-

care staffing agencies. When facilities start dealing with agencies, the agencies are the first to know of any vacancies coming from the facilities. Not only do these agencies get the latest information on the facilities' needs, but they also get job postings that may not be immediately available to the public.

Industry expertise/career counseling:

For established agencies, their years of experience in the industry have made them experts in dealing with human resource concerns. As recruiters that have dealt with numerous situations with applicants, they can suggest how you could maximize your potential from the variety of options they give. Your recruiter will have more time with you, while a few of them even provide character assessments and personality tests; this means they'll have an in-depth look at your skills, qualifications and traits and will therefore be able to intelligently advise you. Remember that these agencies want you to be in an environment where you could excel as they are compensated by the quality of people they send to the facility - quality which is determined

by your work performance.

Quality support system:

Although facilities' human resource departments vary from one another, the assistance it can provide its healthcare workers is usually no match to the support services that a healthcare staffing agency can give its applicants. Facilities are focused on patient care and in working with you to deliver the best care possible, while healthcare staffing agencies make it a point to highly focus on you - the provider of care. Agencies are specialized and dedicated in guiding you in your career. They want to ensure that you are comfortable and well-adjusted to your new job. Staffing companies will try to send you to a place where you will feel most secure, and the will provide housing and relocation assistance, if necessary. They will even provide follow-up calls to check if you're adjusting well to the job and your new environment. With their years of experience in assisting healthcare workers in the field, they know and can provide you with what you need to excel in your career.

Immigration support:

It is true that the nursing shortage has provided

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

Note the changes around us and feel the pulse of the city. For years, we decried the gridlock of our early morning and early evening commute in Los Angeles, as we navigated the rivers of this megalopolis to get to and from work. We complained of long lines everywhere during zero hour. Too many crowds. Too much going on.

THESSE days, when well over half a million workers are out of jobs nationwide, those days in retrospect, when we jostled with the multitudes, were in fact, the good old days of recent memory. The picture is becoming grimmer each day. We watch with trepidation and mounting concern. In some areas, the traffic seems lighter now and there are shorter lines in the stores. Shopping malls are cutting their hours of operation and companies, instead of closing down, are cutting expenses by having their employees take time off without pay. There are more people buying their bread in the outlet stores. There are more people cooking their dinner than eating out. Salary cuts across the board have become a given. CEOs have decided to freeze all hiring. Retail outlets are closing quietly and with those closures, we can only imagine the lives of those who are suddenly without a source of income. Grown children are moving back to their parents' house. Couples on the edge of divorcing are rethinking their positions, knowing that any move they make will impact their pocketbooks. Now is not the time to make a career change. More day laborers stand on street corners around Home Depot begging for jobs to tide them over for the day. The misery index is on the rise. But we've been here before and we will get out of this again.

Behind the cold numbers are living, breathing human beings with families to feed and raise. Cashiers in checkout lines have more time to twiddle with their thumbs in-between transactions. Beauty salon operators bank on their regulars who now just want basic haircuts and none of the other froufrou frills. Movie watching will decrease while cheaper home entertainment will get a boost. The upside is that families will be closer together, depending more on one another. Perhaps, we will learn to begin saving before the rainy days come. And there are more people discovering their spirituality and flocking to churches. It's a world turned upside down when people down on their luck, deliberately commit crimes so they can

A Season Long in Coming

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

-Ecclesiastes

be imprisoned, their basic needs for food and shelter to be provided by the prison system.

Perhaps, this is a season that was long in coming. Despite 9/11, we have had a good run. We know from Ecclesiastes that there is a season for everything under heaven. Our naïve understanding of the changes in the seasons of our lives makes us shortsighted and ill-prepared when the seasons do change.

But lest we forget, it's not all that bleak for all.

People still have to eat and it may very well be that supermarkets, particularly those which offer price and savings and value as their selling points will grow. Restaurants and food joints, if they are not too hip, marginal and high-end, may be able to ride this downturn more than others. Walmart and others who offer more bang for the buck will thrive even more.

The repoman is thriving. It is his business to repossess cars at the behest of finance companies from owners who have been delinquent in their payments. Some lawyers are shifting gears and offering loan modification services or foreclosure defense sensing that a hefty part of the government stimulus package will go to millions who are still at risk of losing their homes to foreclosures. There are those who see opportunity in all these and will adjust accordingly or be mowed down completely. We will reinvent and adapt.

Real estate auction houses are making a killing nationwide, working with the banks and commissioned salespersons to liquidate and mop up a staggering amount of housing inventory from an unprecedented number of foreclosures and overbuilding. These auction houses, foremost among which are REDC and Hudson and Marshall, collects 5% of the winning bid or the purchase price as their fee for facilitating the transaction.

There are so called expert predictions that real estate prices which have plummeted by roughly 36% of value in 2008 will still have a long way to go down by another double digit figure in the years ahead. No one knows exactly when things will bottom out but it will. What is certain is that the tremendous run-up in real estate prices from 2001 till the last quarter of 2007 followed a steep curve and having reached its peak in 2007 will continue to fall over the next few years. It will be a buyers' market. It was an unprecedented phenomenon and few among government regulators and economists blew

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PART OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHILDREN'S CHANCE FOUNDATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.