

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

Petitions by citizens

THE priority date for the First Preference Category, F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens, over 21 years of age) moved forward by 1 month from August 1, 1993, to September 1, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 9 days from June 22, 1991 to July 1, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 24 days from July 8, 1986 to August 1, 1986.

Petitions by green card holders

The Second Preference, F-2A (Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder) moved forward by 2 months and 7 days, from October 8, 2004, to December 15, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by 2 months, from February 1, 1998 to April 1, 1998.

Petitions by employers

The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) remains unavailable. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers also remains unavailable.

Each month, the Visa Office of the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that

The June 2009 priority dates

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.

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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. The information contained herein (including testimonials, "Success Stories", endorsements and re-enactments) is of a general nature, and is not intended to apply to any particular case, and does not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established with any reader.

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Table with 3 columns: FAMILY CATEGORY, Priority Date, and details. Rows include First Preference, Second Preference, Third Preference, Fourth Preference, LABOR CERTIFICATION, and Other workers.

JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

IN AN AGE where people work twice as hard, spend more time away from their family, socialize more online than in real life and are lured away by more activities that decrease the value of personal time with one's self or the people closest to them, staying at home and relaxing (just relaxing!) is becoming more and more of a luxury.

For a lot of working adults who have the task of taking care of their parents, it's a struggle to decide where to place them. Some of them want to put their aging parents in beautiful senior residences where Mom and Dad can have as much independence as they want, and enjoy amenities that would keep them active and occupied.

Now put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself these questions: Where can they live where they would feel most comfortable? Where would they feel most at ease all the time? What type of environment would keep them relaxed? Where can they age without the bother of other people or the reality of monotonous activities imposed by people?

Do you know the answer? You may have guessed it already. That place is called home.

In America today, more than 80% of the elderly would prefer

Why aging at home is an elderly senior's wish

to grow old in their own homes. Factors range from familiarity with their environment to proximity and accessibility to the closest people in their lives. Add to this the sense of freedom they feel when they're living in their own space and the fact that today's homecare providers allow them to stay in their homes even if they have a chronic illness or disability.

Familiarity with the environment

An elderly senior would want to spend his or her golden years at home because they want to be familiar with the place they're growing old in. They do not need to adjust or to be oriented on how to live in the place. There are no rules or regulations they have to follow. There are no activities they would have to participate in even if it doesn't pique their interest, and there are no other people (unless they choose to) to live with and deal with.

Sense of independence

The fact that they have a choice of where to live instills that sense of independence in them. A lot of seniors wouldn't want to be treated like helpless individuals. They would want to be empowered, encouraged and strengthened. They are given a sense of freedom when they are in a place where they can do what they want. They know the place and they know how to handle themselves in their own environment.

Proximity and access to family and friends

Your Mom and Dad's home is the place where they have gathered their friends and family for many years, and what better way to have all the time in the world to be there and be able to accommodate them anytime you want. As they age, a good number of elderly seniors would want to spend as much time with the people closest to them. What better place for them to entertain and be with the people closest to their hearts than in their own residences. No

check-ins, ID verifications and time limits necessary, unless of course they want that.

Availability of high quality homecare services

The most crucial concern of anyone deciding for Mom and Dad is the means of receiving the medical and non-medical attention they need, even if they're at home. Many people opt for a nursing home because of not having enough information about the capabilities of a homecare agency to provide for their needs. Homecare agencies can provide a wide range of services. From household cleaning, assisting with activities of daily living and even performing administrative duties on their behalf - homecare agencies can assign qualified and competent homecare providers. Most of these agencies have geriatric care specialists whose focus is serving the elderly. They can also work with medical practitioners who would instruct them how to prepare their food, the best activities to give them and the crucial symptoms and actions they should take note of. Today's homecare agencies have assessment tools and capabilities to determine the type and level of care your parent needs, along with a roster of qualified professionals to provide that care.

An elderly senior wants to make the most of his/her time. Regardless of what they're feeling or experiencing, they want to enjoy this time in their lives, where there are no work pressures or stress and the only thing they're thinking of is how to best spend the time with the people they love. In this period where they truly cherish life's simple pleasures, it's not hard to recognize and understand why they would want to have lasting footprints in the place where their heart belongs - at home.

Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruit RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO has offices in New York, and in New Jersey where it offers homecare services.

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(Advertising Supplement)

The Remarkable...

From PAGE 12

Throughout the whole ordeal, Ruffa has tried to be strong and focused. Now that this storm in her life has passed, she now sees beautiful blue skies ahead.

Ever since her comeback to Philippine showbiz, her fans and followers have embraced Ruffa with warmth.

She is now one of the most treated Kapamilya talents under ABS-CBN, with her own tandem talk show Ruffa and Ai.

This coming June, Ruffa turns a year wiser. She effervescingly remains the precocious yet sensible girl I met when she 15 years old.

She has agreed to celebrate her birthday with her old pals in Los Angeles this June 28, 2009 at the CBS Studios Lot (New York St). It's going to be

a fashion soiree birthday bash that will also benefit Ruffa's charity, Roof-A-Child Foundation.

Her giving spirit is really what makes Ruffa very special. Through all the storms, God continues to guide and bless her.

If you are going to be in the LA in late June 2009, please come and celebrate with Ruffa and friends for this exciting event: The Beautiful Life! Event--A Toast To Ruffa Gutierrez.

To learn more, please send email to ruffa@events-bymonet.com.

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The author is a Marikina-born, award-winning celebrity beauty stylist with his own chain of salons across Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Ultimately, Monet is known as an all-around artiste who produces sold-out fashion and awards shows, as well as unforgettable marketing campaigns. Monet is also the founder of the revolutionary all-natural beauty products available at www.skinbymonet.com. He supports many humanitarian efforts to include projects in his native Marikina, The Bantay Bata Foundation, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit www.monetsalon.com for more information.

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Alliance of Philippine Travel Agencies (APTA)

7 West 45th St., Suite 1601 New York, NY (212) 869-6250

A COHESIVE GROUP of travel counselors, known as APTA - whose members have solid credentials and travel industry clout has come together to develop strategic plans to implement the programs of the Philippine Department of Tourism in promoting the Philippines as a major destination in Asia. APTA has forged strong bonds with its peers, fully aware of the importance of networking, partnering and achieving lasting results through concerted efforts. It has aggressively collaborated with the Department of Tourism in projects focused on promoting, developing and uplifting Philippine tourism.

Since its formation on March 2, 2000, APTA has made an indelible mark in the travel industry. The Alliance of Philippine Travel Agencies - being a travel trade organization, offers a standard of integrity and quality service that the Philippine community and travelers alike are relying on to find reliable travel agent specializing in Philippine destinations. The members of APTA are committed to achieving professionalism in the marketplace by preserving the

quality of service and excellence through educational and marketing resources; and, by sharing ideas in enhancing current travel development.

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