



"WOWOWEE" STARS ON THIS SUNDAY'S CITIZEN PINOY! "Wowowee's" main man and everybody's "papi" - Willie Revillame (right) joins "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (2nd from right) for a fun-filled and informative encore episode. Adding spice to the discussion are some of the "Wowowee" gang - choreographer Ana Feliciano (left) and ASF dancers Milagrino (2nd from left), Mariposa (3rd from left), and Luningning (3rd from right). The most popular immigration program on television, Citizen Pinoy - airs 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).

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 too much going on. These 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

A season long in coming

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

—Ecclesiastes

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 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 naive 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 of-

fer 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, collect 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

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IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

THE April 2009 priority dates contain bad news for aliens with employment based cases. The priority dates for professionals, skilled workers, and unskilled workers retrogressed (moved backwards) by about two years in each category. (From May 1, 2005 to March 1, 2003 for professionals and skilled workers; and from March 15, 2003 to March 1, 2001 for unskilled workers). So if your priority date had been current, or was just about to be current, this now sets you back about two more years.

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 17 days from July 15, 1993 to August 1, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 7 days from June 8, 1991 to June 15, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 1 month and 7 days from May 15, 1986 to June 22, 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 1 month and 14 days, from July 1, 2004 to August 15, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by 1 month

The April 2009 priority dates – Employment cases retrogress

and 14 days from December 1, 1997 to January 15, 1998.

Petitions by Employers
The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) priority date retrogressed approximately 2 years and 2 months from May 1, 2005 to March 1, 2003. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers retrogressed 2 years and 14 days from March 15, 2003 to March 1, 2001.

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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The April 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)	August 1, 1993 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was July 15, 1993)</i>
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	August 15, 2004 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was July 1, 2004)</i>
	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	January 15, 1998 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was December 1, 1997.)</i>
Third Preference	Married sons and daughters of US citizens.	June 15, 1991 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was June 8, 1991.)</i>
Fourth Preference	Brothers and sisters of US citizens.	June 22, 1986 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was May 15, 1986.)</i>
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/skilled workers	March 1, 2003 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was May 1, 2005.)</i>
Other workers	Non-skilled workers	March 1, 2001 <i>(In March 2009, the priority date was March 15, 2003.)</i>

Sen. Will...

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area are now seeing that a career in science, technology, engineering, and math is not only possible, but satisfying as well," he wrote.

"The incredible benefits of stimulating interest in an area so badly needed in our country are what motivates those of us who believe in STEM training to continue on this path."

He said that students are not only gearing themselves toward a field through robotics education but they also develop critical thinking skills, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

"Developing our young people's capacity for innovation through robotics education trains them to adapt to changing times, and ensures a bright future for our state," added Esperero. ■

The RN...

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relief available. The US Constitution prohibits slavery and indentured servitude and because in many cases the sponsoring employer breaches the contract, the employee is not liable for any damages. This core constitutional value is the basis for providing relief to those forced to leave their sponsors. This will be the subject of our second part of this article.

Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.

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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case. (Advertising Supplement)

Binalonan Association of Southern California
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Olympic Collection
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April 18, 2009
6:00 pm
\$50 per person
Semi-formal

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For more information, please call
Amelia Arichea at (818) 348-5800
Ludy Ganzon at (818) 904-0561
Mila Tadina at (818) 635-2554

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