

**IMMIGRANT LIVING:  
101 AND BEYOND**



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

# How not to dial M for murder

*"Those children who are beaten will in turn give beatings, those who are intimidated will be intimidating, those who are humiliated will impose humiliation, and those whose souls are murdered will murder."*  
—Alice Miller

UNLESS you're an ostrich with your head buried in the sand, you couldn't have missed the uptick in the rash of mass murders and murder suicides in recent times, in many places in the US. There's a common thread — one man driven by rage, jealousy, paranoia, desperation, depression over economic pressures, family problems or just plain deranged, decided he can't take it anymore and instead of committing suicide, decide to inflict murder and mayhem killing several others, either his own family members or total strangers. By last count, there were 7 mass murders committed by ordinary people since the beginning of 2009, with a total casualty count, including the murderers themselves nearing 60 before the first 100 days of the year were over. Is this a social trend? Pundits and talking heads predict that as the recession becomes more firmly entrenched, we can expect more of this type of horror.

blogosphere chatter, many noted that perpetrators of this troubling trend were often the quiet ones. Word is out on the street to watch out for the quiet "pressure cooker" types, those who never cause a ripple and yet, has a fondness for weapons, but who can implode and explode with volcanic intensity and wipe out those around them.

In the past month alone, a young gun enthusiast from Alabama, depressed over his life and who kept mostly to himself, killed 5 members of his own family and 5 other total strangers at random in a barrage of gunfire before taking his own life. A Vietnamese immigrant, Jiverly Wong, aka Vuong, a quiet, social misfit and also a gun enthusiast, driven by severe paranoia and frustrated over his "poor life" and poor English skills, gunned down 12 others in an immigrant center, 10 of whom came from 8 countries and who were students just trying to learn English as a second language. One was a Filipina, Dolores Yigal, a recent immigrant who was studying so she could find a job. One was a long time substitute teacher named Roberta King. One was an Iraqi woman who survived 3 car bombs in her native Iraq and left behind a devastated family, a daughter at the Sorbonne in Paris and another daughter, a Fulbright scholar. All these lives were cut off by one sorry excuse for a human being in one fell swoop.

Among ordinary families from all strata and from nearly every ethnic group, there has also been a rash of killings among fathers who have decided they have failed and will kill themselves and are taking their whole family with them. On rare occasions, it is a mother who does it. Sometimes, the sick and the elderly decide to take matters into their own hands and end it all. The murder suicide rate among families is on the rise, thankfully not in epidemic proportions just yet

as to cause panic. Perhaps, this is fueled by the effects of the economic downturn, with mounting financial pressures and with an unprecedented number of foreclosures, forcibly displacing families from their nests. And yet to merely focus on economics as the root of this troubling phenomenon is shortsighted and misses the whole point.

After all the news vans are gone from the crime scene, after the vacuous words of any sitting president have been said, after all references to the story are buried in the inside pages and eventually ground to a halt on the internet, and when the grieving families have no more tears to shed, many questions as to why such things happen with alarming frequency remain unanswered.

There seems to be a moral turpitude that ails a society that looks at murder suicide as an option. This much is certain, when extreme hubris rules the heart and mind, there will always be a lack of personal responsibility and accountability when something goes wrong. It was always because of someone else's fault or because of a set of circumstances. We tend to blame everything else but ourselves. The tendency to shirk responsibility is probably wired into our DNA right at the Garden of Eden with Eve playing the blame game early on. The devil made me do it. So did Adam. The woman gave me the apple. It is our inability, due to pride, the deadliest of all human failings, to own up to sin. And so it was with the fallen angels. There's only one antidote to pride for us mere mortals and that is to cultivate daily a grateful, humble heart that thanks God for every moment of life on earth. Our Blessed Mother exemplifies the kind of heart that bears all. That is why she is worthy of emulation.

"Thou shalt not kill" is a commandment that holds in good



SASSY & WITTY MULTIMEDIA STAR JOINS "ATTORNEY-TO-THE-STARS" ON CITIZEN PINOY! Talented artist and consummate host... the perfect role model for today's young woman - Toni Gonzaga (left) joins Atty. Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for a lively and informative episode about Toni's entertainer visa and first trip to the US on the most popular US immigration show 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 1 am with replays on Sunday at 9 am and Thursday at 8 pm, all PST; and on ANC- Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday and Friday at 11 am (Manila time)

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

THE May 2009 priority dates bring bad news to workers who are under petition in the 3rd preference category (professional/skilled workers) as well as unskilled workers. The Visa Office of the State Department announced that visas for workers in these categories are "unavailable", probably until at least October 2009. This means that these workers will not be able to get their green cards (either through adjustment of status if in the US, or immigrant visa at the Embassy) until starting October 2009, assuming their priority date will be "current" once again.

**Petitions by Citizens**  
The priority date for the First Preference Category, F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, over 21 years of age) remained the same at August 1, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 7

## May 2009 priority dates No more working green cards available

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

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- Connect you with advisors, lawyers, counselors and lenders.
- Inform you about opportunities to modify your loan and identify additional options.

When: Sunday April 19, 2009  
9am to 6pm

Where: Offices of 4C Council  
2515 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95131

To register please contact:  
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E. 4closure@4c.org

Register Online at:  
[www.mabuhayalliance.org/sanjose](http://www.mabuhayalliance.org/sanjose)

The Clinic Services ONLY apply to  
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List of documents you should bring with you to the Foreclosure Prevention Clinic

In order to assist you with your request for a loan modification and/or a workout resolution with your Lender(s), please bring the following documents with you:

- Personal Financial Statement \* Please complete, sign and date.
- Monthly Budget \*  
\* Forms are available at 4C Council offices and also at [www.4c.org](http://www.4c.org) (under Calendar of Events)
- Reason for Hardship letter: Please provide details of the reason of your current financial hardship, its expected duration and the financial resources with which you will manage your debt going forward.
- If you are a SALARIED EMPLOYEE, please provide the following:
  - Copy of your most recent W2(s) & Personal Tax Return (1040's)
  - Copy of your most recent pay-stub(s) - One month's worth
- If you are SELF-EMPLOYED, please provide the following, if applicable:
  - Signed and dated copy of your most recent Personal Tax Return (1040's), including all schedules
  - Signed and dated copy of your most recent Corporate Tax Return, including all schedules
  - Signed and dated copy of year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement and most recent month-end and quarter-end Balance Sheet
- Copies of recent statements and payment notices for:
  - All bank accounts (checking, savings, IRAs, CDs, Money Market, etc.)
  - Retirement accounts (401k, SEP IRA, etc.)
  - Promissory Note(s), including a copy of the original Promissory Note(s)
  - Home Owners Association (HOA), if applicable
  - Property Tax Bill
  - Insurance Statements (Homeowners, Fire, etc.)
- Copies of any legal documents or correspondence from your lender that you have received (Notice of Default, Notice of Trustee's Sale, etc.)

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