



MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL ON CITIZEN PINOY. Mother's Day on Citizen Pinoy has a special feature on mother Dorie Sarming (2nd from left) and daughter Dinah (3rd from left) - who endured the pain and suffering of being separated from each other for so many years. See how a mother's love conquers all when hosts Gel Santos-velos (left) and leading immigration attorney Michael J. Gurfinkel bring you a special Mother's Day tribute on Citizen Pinoy - airs this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Wednesday, at 12:15 am (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 am 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 every Monday (Manila time).

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

A Mother's Day greeting

a better future for their children ironically cause untold suffering for both the mother who left, and the children left behind.

The mother comes home from work, finding an empty house, devoid of the love and laughter of her children. She calls her children, especially during important occasions, such as Christmas Day, New Year's Day, birthdays, graduations, sharing with them the happiness of the occasion. But as soon as the mother puts down the phone, the joy fades, and the pain of separation becomes even more deep. She sees friends' children, and remembers her own children back home.

The children who are left behind, on the other hand, grow up without the love, care and guidance of a loving mother. True, they are able to go to the best schools, buy clothes, and eat good meals every day, but all they really want is to be with "Mommy."

Every time I go to the Philippines, I see Filipinos who can buy their clothes and food because many of them have mothers, or fathers, or children who are working abroad, sending them dollars for their upkeep. But behind their capacity to buy material things, lies that empty feeling caused by the absence of their parents or children.

I have had the privilege of seeing many mothers and children reunited in America, and I can tell you that there is no better joy in knowing that they can continue pursuing better opportunities together without being away from each other again. There have been many joyful reunions between mothers and children that I am happy and proud to have been a part of.

It's Mother's Day again this Sunday, and I continue to look

forward to helping more mothers get their ultimate Mother's Day wish - to be with their children again.

For some mothers in the United States, the wait for the magical reunion with their children seems endless. Because of their lack of immigration status, they must spend year after year away from their children. I hope that they are doing something to legalize their status, so that they can spend Mother's Day and other important holidays with their children in the future.

On this Mother's Day, I send my love and greetings to my own mother, who was an immigrant herself, who left her country, family and friends to look for a better life in America. I am very much able to understand what my clients have gone through, since my parents were immigrants and they have gone through the same experiences as my clients. Special greetings go to my Filipina mother-in-law, whom I call "Nanay". Most of all, to the mothers who made the supreme sacrifice of separation, for the sake of their own children.

To all the mothers of the world, Happy Mother's Day!!!

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. WEBSITE: www.gurfinkel.com Call Toll free to schedule a consultation for anywhere in the US: (866) - GURFINKEL Four offices to serve you: LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO • NEW YORK • PHILIPPINES (Advertising Supplement)

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

THE one thing that differentiates a life of deprivation from a rich one is the availability of choice. And making wise choices from the array made available to us, is not always obvious or easy.

Awash with a steady stream of choices on radio, television, cable, satellite and the ubiquitous ipod, we have morphed into a society with choices served on a platter. And yet given the almost infinite variety from which we can cull out entertainment and some of the information we may need to figure out how best to live our lives during these interesting times we live in, paradoxically, all these sources are still strangely inadequate.

The messages may not always be in our own best interest. Mass media has evolved into a sophisticated selling tool that has to constantly balance that delicate mix of serving the public interest and serving the interests of business and industry that ensure its continued existence. Lately though, the balance has been skewed in favor of business. To a significant extent, big businesses do have some say as to what, why and how frequently messages get aired.

What can we do to avoid becoming a mindless sponge that sops up what the boob tube has to offer? In a word, FILTER. We must develop a filtering mechanism, much like an industrial strength sieve in our thinking cap to be able to discern only what is important to us and trash the major bulk of messages that assail us 24/7. The truths and the values, as they apply to us, must be ferreted out the old fashioned way through spadework (which, thanks to the wonders of communications technology, can be done by a few keystrokes on the internet) and the low tech way

Filter it, pull the plug or think outside the box

I think, therefore I am.

-Rene Descartes

of simply asking around. Nothing, however, can take the place of gruelling personal experience that builds a personalized knowledge base. Read up on your own. Read books, both the paper kind and the electronic versions. But be selective. Life is always an adventure wherever you choose to live. But you ratchet up the color and excitement several notches higher the moment you choose to immigrate to another land. Like it or not, you have signed yourself up to learn and adapt and evolve every single day you are alive.

Go ahead, watch television. Do it in small doses though. American television exhibits amazing cutting edge technology and special effects are particularly

drag on your psyche. No one whose heart is in the right place and whose head is screwed on tight can be impervious or indifferent to some of the heinous crimes against humanity that are dumped daily in our homes. On those days that you feel you are particularly vulnerable to suggestion, pull the plug and take a leisurely walk around the block or put up your feet and read a good book.

TV is one formidable force that has the undeniable capacity to shape the way we think, the way we live and what we believe in. It can give shape and color to our hopes and dreams as immigrants. We all need to be discriminating in what it is that we allow ourselves and our families to watch. If we let it, television has the potential to "own" us. Never relinquish your power to say no. With your finger on the remote control, you have the power to switch to high quality fare or simply pull the plug.

Television is consumer driven. It responds to what sells. So play the game. As a consumer, you can choose to vote with your wallet, buying only those consumer products that support quality television programming that elevates rather than degrades people. Imagine the cumulative power of millions of buyers just like you who can influence television programming with what they choose to buy. Even as an immigrant who might still be many years from becoming a full-fledged citizen with the right to vote, you can begin to exercise and flex the power of choice by voting with your wallet.

“TV is one formidable force that has the undeniable capacity to shape the way we think, the way we live and what we believe in. It can give shape and color to our hopes and dreams as immigrants.”

stunning. Do not let your guard down. Do not be deceived by the glitz and glamour of the packaging and overlook the lack of substance in many shows. The same holds true for shows that come from other countries. A lot of these shows designed by marketers to appeal to the lowest common denominator border on the inane. There are much more spectacular things to discover in the real world outside the box in so many other ways that can be much more educational and fun. Check the offerings in public television. You might be pleasantly surprised by what's available. Weather and traffic reports may be all that you will need for the day. The daily dose of murder mayhem, and in Los Angeles, the staple of car chases by idiots seeking their "15 minutes of fame/infamy" portrayed in graphic detail can put a real

Nota Bene: To ask questions, send feedback and requests as well as to inquire about advertising in any or all of the 6 print editions of Asian Journal in California, Nevada and New York/New Jersey and/or advertising in the Print Edition Online of Asian Journal, e-mail monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE FEEDBACK.

The perfect gifts for the perfect woman

Fashionable and affordable gifts for Mother's Day from JCPenney

PLANO, TX - Mother's Day is the day to show Mom how much you care. Whether whipping up pancakes and serving breakfast in bed, or giving a stylish statement piece that is an instant wardrobe updater, JCPenney offers various gifts to make Mom feel special and loved.

Shop at JCPenney this Mother's Day to find the perfect gift!

She will treasure a Mixit safari beaded statement necklace (\$24) that says you would have traveled to Africa and back for her.

Tell her it's okay to pamper herself with a soak in the tub by giving luxurious body scrub and scented bath bubbles. Sephora body scrub (\$12), Sephora bath & shower bubbles (\$16).

Give her the gift of global style with a stylish kimono sleeve belted jacket by Worthington (\$60).

Your mother might need a new makeup lesson so give her the tools to succeed - a Sephora deluxe anti-bacterial brush set, which includes seven brushes that repel and destroys bacteria in a silver chic trifold brush case (\$60).

Has salsa dancing become mom's new pastime? Either way keep her fashionable with an a.n.a ruffled top in bright colors (\$26).

Give her Sephora Harmony lip gloss (\$12) that will make your mom's lips shimmer this spring and look natural this spring, this spring and look natural. Contains six versatile colors and a brush.

Your mom used to make circle skirts in Home Ec high school home economics. Let her know the trend is back and how to update it with a Worthington Tropical Circle Skirt (\$36).

It is all about the details with your mom. Give her some fashionable a.n.a tops that have intricate Soutache straps or a tank with lurex detailing in an array of colors (\$22).

Dazzle her on this deserving occasion with deli-

cate Heart, Angel, Cross and Teardrop Pendants and Rings - classic sterling silver accessories with a tasteful hint of 14K gold (\$49.99 - \$99.99).

Spend quality time with mom preparing traditional family recipes with the cooks five-Piece Ceramic Mixing Bowl Set (\$29.99) and the cooks five-Piece Silicone Bakeware Set (\$39.99). And -) - and what better way to preserve your culinary creations than the adorable hand painted cooks Ceramic Pig Cookie Jar (\$49.99) complete with convenient dry erase board and marker.

Whether she enjoys an early morning pick me up or an evening cup-a-java, the cooks 12-Cup Coffeemaker (\$29.99) is a great way to brighten both her day and her kitchen décor! Available in six colors.

Shake up her routine with the colorful cooks Blender (\$79.99). Available in six colors.

The cooks Cook Book (\$19.99) is full of delicious recipes that can be personalized with mom's secret ingredients and special touches - the perfect gift for moms that love to cook and entertain.

Let mom reminisce about all of your precious moments together with the Pandigital Touch Screen Digital Frame(\$109.99).

Give her the gift of music with the 1GB MP3 Player (\$19.99) - a sound gift for all moms on the go!

JCPenney's combination of great fashions, affordable price points, convenience of more than 1,000 stores nationwide, and jcp.com will help make Mother's Day shopping as simple as possible.

For a quick glimpse at all the Mother's Day items listed above, take a look at our online photo gallery:<http://newsroom.mbooth.com/JCPenney/LookBooks/Holiday/main.php/v/mom>

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IN REUNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

In our continuing efforts to serve the Fil-Am Community, Asian Journal will be featuring profiles of Filipino-American associations here in the United States.

Please submit a brief background of your association, a list of current officers and your contact information for the benefit of our readers who may want to get in touch with you.

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