



AN ATE'S DILEMMA ON THIS SUNDAY'S CITIZEN PINOY! What do you do when your beloved little brother is in danger of having his case denied, shattering his "American Dream"? Dr. Frieda V. Brookshire (left), the Orange County dentist responsible for the dazzling smiles of divas Pops Fernandez and Kuh Ledesma, joins her brother Frederick (right) and "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (middle) for a heartwarming and informative episode. The most popular immigration program on television, *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 am every Monday (Manila time).

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

The June 2009 priority dates

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 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. The information contained herein (including testimonials, "Success Stories", endorsements and re-enactments) is of 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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IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(Here's a condensed version of an old favorite, a belated "Ode to Spring," sort of.)

THE delightful tongue-in-cheek quote above is a humorous dig at the tedious nature of gardening. But spring will soon give way to the dog days of summer when a slice of heaven could mean rocking slowly under a tree in a hammock with a book in one hand and a chilled margarita on the other.

I am a reluctant gardener. I was thrust into it by circumstances since I have a thing about not wanting anything dying on my shift. Nothing I did seemed right at the time. I tended to over water not knowing about the dangers of root rot. Very few plants like to have wet feet. Plants died on me the same way Jerry Seinfeld's plants tend to commit suicide on his watch.

My track record at growing things was dismal, yet I have often wondered what it would be like to watch something grow. I marveled at my mother's green thumb. She can stick a seemingly lifeless stump at a clump of earth and grow a new beautiful plant nearly every time. I wasn't one to give up easily though. Tenaciously, doggedly I hung on to an image of me as a confident gardener. My education on the art and science of growing things had begun. I took baby steps and stumbled countless times and still do. I became quieter within as I began to observe and seek to understand the process of growth, the seasons and the cycle of life. I read voraciously volumes upon volumes about plants and watched public television that featured gardening. Nurseries and gardens have become my favorite haunts where I could ask those who knew better. I boned up on my rusty, halting Spanish quizzing the gardener as best I could. Finally, I slammed on the brakes fearing I had become boringly, compulsively obsessive. But I found that unless I got down on the ground myself, nothing happened.

I have discovered gardening to be a quiet, solitary pursuit somewhat fit for hermits and

Lessons from the Garden

The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.
 —Texas Bix Bender,
Don't Throw in the Trowel

loners — unglamorous, unexciting, backbreaking, time consuming, manual, icky, down in the dirt labor that was certainly not meant for immediate gratification. So, why do it at all? I don't really know. Must be borderline idiocy. Of course, I speak only for myself. For one thing, it teaches you the patience of Job and the virtue of humility. I have failed more than succeeded and am still working on it. But as time passed, I have been encouraged by modest results. I became synchronized with the seasons and their gentle nuances. I took baby steps and was off and running at one point. At times, I would even become bolder with the temerity to dispense advice a la Martha Stewart and help a few others with their own patch of earth. I must confess however that lately, I have become a slacker and it shows. I squirm at the sight of how neglected the garden looks.

I know I will have to take up gardening 101 once again and devote time and energy to see results. Back to square one, I suppose. It will be easy because I only have a small patch of earth to work with and a bit of paid help to do the grunt work. Did I mention that I have a garden the size of a postage stamp? Oh, all right, maybe a wad of postage stamps. But it is small, really small — just the way I like it. Truth to tell, I don't think my aching back, my diminutive size and what I have available in time, energy and resources, can tackle anything bigger.

Years ago, I bought a discarded ugly duckling — a pot bound areca palm tree with about three pathetic fronds for half a song and a dance. This is one gardening fairy tale you could believe in. Well, it has turned into a tall, graceful swan with luxuriant fronds. I gave it rich soil and placed it in a bigger pot, top dressing it and sticking some time-released fertilizer pellets. That palm tree is like a person that grew because it was given the opportunities and the environment to do so. But it took a bit of work, some imagination, and a dash of patience and considerable time.

I could call most plants by

name these days and seem to instinctively know what to do when a problem arises. If things don't work on my own accord, I seek help. I still am a failure with azaleas. Azaleas have been dying on my shift so I am staying away from them. I suspect it has something to do with the amount of light and too much water that has drenched the soil because of an unusually wetter, longer winter season. I said goodbye too to a beautiful sago palm that must have suffered root rot. Farewell too, to a French lavender bush that gave me so much fragrance. The garden gets a lot of shade being in a Northwest orientation so I am quite alright with the fact that I will never have roses which I would love to have but can't. Believe me, I tried. So I just admire them in my neighbors' gardens with a southeast orientation.

My journey to self-discovery has been made easier by understanding the process of nature, the seasons and the nature of things: of why a seed no matter how good cannot grow in a certain type of soil; or how a young tree cannot grow in the shadow of a mighty oak; or of how much light a plant needs to burst with flowers, of the impeccable timing and the cycle of the seasons that are in God's perfect divine order like a well rehearsed dance or a Beethoven symphony; of why you must resist moving a plant from a place where it is growing so well to another place simply to satisfy a whim or a feng shui decorating principle; when and where to prune, of knowing when to water by sticking a finger in the soil or noting the droop of the leaves; or the merits of clay pots and plastic pots; of when to re-pot or top dress; even how to propagate. The most important lesson perhaps is learning when to leave well enough alone and letting go; of accepting death as part of life. I make it a point to take pictures when the flowers are in full bloom, knowing that no matter how pretty they are, their beauty is fleeting. I am left with beautiful images and pleasant memories.

The irony of it all is that the more I know, the more I realize how little I know. I guess that is

the paradox of all lifelong learning. I now appreciate more clearly the delicate balance on which our planet depends for it to sustain life — of how vastly critical it is for everyone to do their part to ensure that life continues. One can see life's longing for itself in the perennial grass that grows. There is great wisdom in gardening. If you dig in the garden long enough, you will find an infinite variety of the parallel laws that govern all life with unsurpassed clarity. Gardening has taught me a zen-like passive skill of enjoying quiet solitude, of observing what works and what won't, of doing what needs to get done with very little struggle and ultimately, of accepting and of simply letting go when all I have done is all I can do.

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

DR. VAL'S DENTAL VIEWS



DR. VALERIE DE LEON

DENTURE adhesive can provide additional retention for well-fitting dentures. Denture adhesives are not the solution for old, ill-fitting dentures. A poorly fitting denture, which causes constant irritation over a long period, may contribute to the development of sores. These dentures may need a relining or need to be replaced. If your dentures begin to feel loose, or cause pronounced discomfort, consult with your dentist immediately.

Dentures are very delicate and may break if dropped even a few inches. Stand over a folded towel or a basin of water when handling dentures. When you are not wearing them, store your dentures in a denture container away from children and pets.

Like natural teeth, dentures must be brushed daily to remove food deposits, plaque and adhe-

How to take care of dentures

sives. Brushing helps prevent dentures from becoming permanently stained and helps your mouth stay healthy. It's best to use a brush designed for cleaning dentures. A toothbrush with soft bristles can also be used. Avoid using hard-bristled brushes that can damage dentures.

Some denture wearers use hand soap or mild dishwashing liquid, which are both acceptable for cleaning dentures. Avoid using other powdered household cleansers, which may be too abrasive. Also, avoid using bleach, as this may whiten the pink portion of the denture.

The first step in cleaning dentures is to rinse away loose food particles thoroughly. Moisten the brush and apply denture cleanser. Brush every surface, scrubbing gently to avoid damage.

Dentures, when not worn, should be placed in a denture cleanser soaking solution or in water. Never place dentures in hot water, which could cause them to warp.

Over time, dentures will need to be relined, rebased, or remade due to normal wear. To reline or rebase a denture, the dentist

uses the existing denture teeth and refits the denture base or makes a new denture base. Dentures may need to be replaced if they become loose and the teeth show signs of significant wear. Dentures become loose because a mouth naturally changes with age. Bone and gum ridges can recede or shrink, causing jaws to align differently. Shrinking ridges can cause dentures to fit less securely. Loose dentures can cause health problems, including sores and infections. A loose denture also makes chewing more difficult and may change your facial features. It's important to replace worn or poorly fitting dentures before they cause problems.

To find out if you would benefit for new dentures, call Dr. De Leon at (650) 697-9000 for consultation.

 To find out if you would benefit from denture relining or new dentures, call Dr. De Leon for a free consultation at 650-697-9000. Dr. de Leon is with Millbrae Smile Center located at 15 El Camino Real, Millbrae CA. She is a member of American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Academy of Laser Dentistry, ADA, CDA, SMCDS And AGD.
 (Advertising Supplement)