

FBI arrests Filipino church leaders in immigrant trafficking scam

AUTHORITIES SAY CHURCH MEMBERS WERE FORCED TO COLLECT DONATIONS

The FBI arrested three administrators of a Filipino-based church Wednesday for allegedly trafficking in its members from Asia as part of a six-year fundraising scam.

Guia Cabactulan, 59, Marissa Duenas, 41, and Amanda Estopare, 48, who are members of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Name Above Every Name (or KOJC), were picked up by agents in California and Virginia following raids of KOJC's offices in Van Nuys, Glendale and Los Angeles, the FBI said.

The three allegedly used a children's foundation as a front to bring in its members from the Philippines and use them to beg for money on the street, the criminal complaint said.

KOJC was created in 1985 in Davao, Philippines, by Apollo Quiboloy who claims to be "the Appointed Son of God."

Investigators said as early as October 2013, the church would obtain visas for its

members under the pretense that they would be performing in musical events in America, however once those members got to the country, they had their passports taken away and were forced to work as "volunteers," to raise money. The workers were allegedly sent to various locations across the country and ask for money that they claimed went to aid Filipino children, according to the criminal complaint.

The money, in reality, went to church operations, and between 2014 and mid-2019, KOJC collected close to \$20 million from these donations, the FBI said. Workers were allegedly ordered to meet quotas that changed daily while they were collecting the donations, according to the complaint.

KOJC administrators allegedly used several illicit tactics to keep workers in the country including sham marriages and phony enrollments in schools, and forced them to live in unsafe living conditions, according to the FBI.

Several workers came forward to the FBI and gave them details accounts of their experiences as well as e-mails from their administrators that detailed their instructions in the alleged scam, the agency said.

Cabactulan, who was the top U.S. KOJC administrator and had direct communications with leaders back in the Philippines, allegedly held on to the victims' passports and oversaw the operations, according to the complaint. The FBI said Duenas was responsible for falsifying documents and information to immigration officials, while Estopare was allegedly in charge of the collections, according to the complaint.

The church has come under scrutiny by federal investigators in the past. In September, a Hawaii manager of KOJC was charged with smuggling cash to the Philippines using Quiloboly's private jet, according to the FBI. Quiboloy was briefly arrested in Hawaii in 2018 after federal agents found \$350,000 in cash and parts to assemble a military rifle were found in his jet.

The FBI has established a toll-free phone number for potential victims or anyone with information about KOJC activities to provide information,1-800-CALL FBI (1-800-225-5324). FBI operators fluent in English and Tagalog will staff the hotline.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENING TO BEGIN AT 3 U.S. AIRPORTS FOR CORONAVIRUS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will implement enhanced health screenings to detect ill travelers traveling to the United States on direct or connecting flights from Wuhan, China. This activity is in response to an outbreak in China caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019 nCoV), with exported cases to Thailand and Japan.

Since January 17, 2020, travelers from Wuhan to the United States undergo entry screening for symptoms associated with 2019nCoV at three U.S. airports that receive most of the travelers from Wuhan, China: San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), and Los Angeles (LAX) airports.

Based on current information, the risk from 2019-nCoV to the American public is currently deemed to be low. Nevertheless, CDC is taking proactive preparedness precautions. Entry screening is part of a layered approach used with other public health measures already in place to detect arriving travelers who are sick to slow and reduce the spread of any disease into the United States. CDC has deployed about 100 additional staff to the three airports (SFO, JFK, and LAX) to supplement existing staff at CDC quarantine stations located at those airports. CDC is actively monitoring this situation for pertinent information about the source of outbreak, and risk for further spread through person-to-person or animal-to-person transmission. CDC may adjust screening procedures and other response activities as this outbreak investigation continues and more is learned about the newly emerging virus. Entry screening alone is not a guarantee against the possible importation of this new virus but is an important public health tool during periods of uncertainty. As new information emerges, CDC will reassess entry screening measures and could scale activities up or down accordingly.

NBA legend, daughter dies in helicopter crash

NBA All - Star Kobe Bryant and his 13 year old daughter, Giana (Gigi), died in a helicopter crash with seven other people — Ara Zobayan, Sarah and Payton Chester, Christina Mauser, and Keri, Alyssa, and John Altobelli — in Calabasas, CA, on Jan. 26.

Kobe was headed to a youth basketball game in Thousand Oaks when the helicopter crashed "amid foggy conditions into a hillside near an intersection in area north of Malibu State Park" and a brush fire erupted. There were no survivors.

It has been reported that Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna attended a 7 a.m. Catholic mass and received communion on Sunday atting thedral of Our Lady Queen of the Angels in Newpon Beach, Calif. After Mass, the father and daughter headed to Gianna's basketball game at the Mamba Sports Academy.

The cause of the crash remains under inves gation. (Related story on Page 4)



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On January 30, the World Health Organization determined the rapidly spreading outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice. Commercial carriers have reduced or suspended routes to and from China.

Those currently in China should consider departing using commercial means. The Department of State has requested that all non-essential U.S. government personnel defer travel to China in light of the novel coronavirus.

In an effort to contain the novel coronavirus, the Chinese authorities have suspended air, road, and rail travel in the area around Wuhan and placed restrictions on travel and other activities throughout the country. On January 23, 2020, the Department of State ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members from Wuhan. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Hubei province. On January 29, 2020, the Department of State allowed for the voluntary departure of non-emergency personnel and family members of U.S. government employees from China. On January 31, 2020, the Department of State ordered the departure of all family members under age 21 of U.S. personnel in China.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Warning for all of China. The CDC has published suggestions on how to reduce your risk of contracting the Novel Coronavirus. Visit the CDC webpage for expanded information about the Novel Coronavirus, including prevention, signs and symptoms, and treatment.



HUD awards nearly \$2.2B to homeless program

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben

Raising awareness of human trafficking with #WearBlueDay

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Blue Campaign recently hosted #WearBlueDay, its largest one-day awareness initiative of the year. Held on January 11, #WearBlueDay encourages the public to wear blue – the international color of human trafficking awareness – and post photos of themselves, or with friends, family, or colleagues, on social media with #WearBlueDay to raise awareness of this heinous crime.

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery and every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked around the world, including right here in the U.S. The Blue Campaign contributes to the Federal mission of combatting human trafficking by providing public awareness materials, at no cost, to increase recognition and reporting of human trafficking. For more information on #WearBlueDay and Blue Campaign, visit www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign.

To report suspected human trafficking, contact the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line: 1-866-347-2423. For victim assistance, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).



• special in this issue •

HELPING FIGHT PEDIATRIC CANCER

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The Washington Area Hyundai Dealers, The Washington Auto Show, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Children's National Hospital team up to help fight pediatric cancer through the Hyundai Hands On Hope Contest at the 2020 Washington Auto Show that runs until February 2.

US AMBASSADOR KIM ANNOUNCES PHP 5.1M IN RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TAAL VOLCANO

During a visit to a school serving as an evacuation center in Nasugbu, Batangas on January 22, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Y. Kim announced the provision of Php 5.1 million (\$100,000) in U.S. government support to those affected by the January 12 Taal volcanic eruption.

THE WORLD MOURNS THE LOSS OF KOBE BRYANT

The NBA announced "that jerseys for the 2020 All-Star Game will feature a special tribute to basketball legend Kobe Bryant , his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna , and seven other victims of the Jan. 26 helicopter crash in Calabasas, California".

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY AWEE ABAYARI WITH JO-JO VALENZUELA

An award winning professional bartender/beverage consultant and chef in the DC metropolitan area, Jo-Jo Valenzuela is the owner of Game DC and Tiki on 18th . He is the DC Brand Agent for Absolut Elyx and as a certified Training for Intervention Procedures trainer, he has been recognized for his work to prevent alcohol-related incidents across Virginia.

Carson recently announced nearly \$2.2 billion in grants to support thousands of local homeless assistance programs across the nation. HUD's Continuum of Care grants will provide critically needed support to approximately 6,593 local programs on the front lines, serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This is the first of two announcements of Continuum of Care awards. View a complete list of all the state and local homeless projects awarded funding.

HUD Continuum of Care grant funding supports a broad array of interventions designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly those living in places not meant for habitation, located in sheltering programs, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Each year, HUD serves more than a million people through emergency shelter, transitional, and permanent housing programs.

Sexual harassment lawsuit filed vs property manager, owners of L.A. apartment building

The Justice Department announced that it has filed a lawsuit alleging that female tenants in residential apartment buildings in Los Angeles, California, were subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, alleges that property manager Filomeno Hernandez sexually harassed female residents at the rental properties since at least 2006 through the present. The apartment buildings are located at 729 South Bonnie Brae Street and 720 Westlake Avenue, near MacArthur Park. The Department's complaint names Filomeno Hernandez, Ramin Akhavan, Bonnie Brae Investment Services LLC, and Westlake Property Services LLC as defendants. Defendants manage or own properties where the illegal conduct occurred.





POSITION: United States Attorney

About the Office: The United States Attorney's Office prosecutes federal criminal offenses, seeks recovery of government funds fraudulently obtained, litigates affirmative civil fraud and enforcement actions, and defends the U.S. Government's interest in civil cases. The United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia, is located in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to the main office in downtown Atlanta, we maintain three intermittently staffed offices located in Rome, Newnan, and Gainesville. More information about the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is available at http://www.usdoj.gov/ usao/gan.

Our office places a high value on diversity of experiences and perspectives and encourages applications from all qualified individuals from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Job Description: Responsibilities and Opportunity Offered: The Northern District of Georgia is currently seeking applicants for a permanent Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) opening in our Criminal Division. All initial attorney appointments to the Department of Justice are made on a 14 month (temporary) basis pending favorable adjudication of a background investigation.

POSITION: Trial Attorney

Qualifications: Interested parties must possess a J.D., degree, be an active member of the bar (any jurisdiction), and have at least three years of post-J.D. experience. Applicants must have solid academic credentials as well as excellent writing and strong interpersonal skills. Applicants should possess strong speaking and presentation skills; experience in the training of, and development of, professional training for prosecutors and agents.

A strong background in criminal prosecution including experience with long term, complex organized crime, drug, and money laundering investigations; as well as electronic surveillance and related legal issues; domestic and international financial investigations; and familiarity with federal investigative agencies is preferred. Experience in handling international extradition and mutual legal assistance cases, and proficiency in at least one foreign language, are also desirable. Applicants must be able to secure and maintain a Top Secret security clearance.

Salary: GS-15, \$142,701-\$170,800

Travel: Periodic international and domestic travel, sometimes on short notice, is required **Application Process**: Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and brief writing sample via email to: OCDETF.DIRECTOR@usdoj.gov

Applicants should familiarize themselves and comply with the relevant rules of professional conduct regarding any possible conflicts of interest in connection with their applications. In particular, please notify this Office if you currently represent clients or adjudicate matters in which this Office is involved and/or you have a family member who is representing clients or adjudicating matters in which this Office is involved so that we can evaluate any potential conflict of interest or disqualification issue that may need to be addressed under those circumstances.



HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI



Washington Auto Show and Washington area Hyundai dealers team up to help fight pediatric cancer

WASHINGTON-- The Washington Area Hyundai Dealers, The Washington Auto Show, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Children's National Hospital team up to help fight pediatric cancer through the Hyundai Hands On Hope Contest at the 2020 Washington Auto Show that runs until February 2. A longtime staple of The Washington Auto Show, the Hyundai Hands On Contest requires hearty contestants to remain in constant contact with a Hyundai vehicle over multiple days (with a few breaks), all with the hope of driving away in a brand-new Hyundai.

This year's contest is called "Hands on Hope: 50 Hours for \$100,000." Contestants will compete for a brand-new 2020 Hyundai Venue over the 50-hour contest period. What makes this contest unique is that the contestants will also be competing for \$100,000 in pediatric research grants for their medical centers.

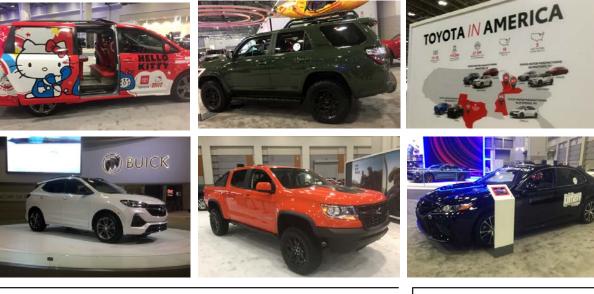
The announcement of the new program was made by Washington Auto Show President and CEO John O'Donnell and Kevin Reilly, owner of Alexandria Hyundai, and representative of the Washington Area Hyundai Dealers.

"The Hyundai Hands On Contest has long been a hallmark event at our show," O'Donnell said. "We are proud to be able to use this competition to showcase the important work that our local medical centers do to help the most vulnerable among us in their greatest time of need." "Hyundai has a long history of supporting the fight against pediatric cancer and now the Hyundai Hands On Hope Contest will contribute to that fight, benefiting two innovators in this field, Georgetown Lombardi and Children's National," Reilly said. "The Washington Area Hyundai dealers are proud to support their great work with \$100,000 in pediatric cancer research grants, and excited that one of their employees will drive away in a brand-new 2020 Hyundai Venue."

To date, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has provided almost \$4 million in pediatric cancer research grants collectively to Georgetown Lombardi and Children's National (approximately \$2 million in grants to Georgetown Lombardi and over \$1.7 million in grants to Children's National). Since its inception in 1998, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has contributed over \$160 million to the fight against pediatric cancer.

"Hyundai Hope On Wheels has fueled some of the most promising cancer research projects underway at Children's National," said Jeffrey Dome, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's National. "We are grateful to Hyundai Hope on Wheels — and all of the dealerships here and around the country — for their partnership and generous support for research in pediatric oncology."

The Washington Auto Show takes place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW, Washington, D.C. until February 2, 2020.



DOT aims to boost Philippines' tourism infrastructure, connectivity

CLARK, PAMPANGA – Philippine tourism and transportation officials recently convened to strengthen the tourism infrastructure convergence program to ensure that the country's tourism industry is off to another productive year with enhanced tourism infrastructure and increased connectivity.

The conference highlight included the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement titled "Institutionalized Leveraging of Infrastructure Program for Airport Development (iLiPAD) led by Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo– Puyat and Transportation Secretary Arthur P. Tugade. The institutionalized convergence program primarily aims to synchronize efforts to boost airport and route development programs.

The tourism chief announced that the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, or TIEZA, the implementing agency and infrastructure arm of the Department of Tourism (DOT), is currently working with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on the possibility of funding several airports in the country to equip them with night—rating capabilities. DOTr Secretary Tugade expressed his full support and commitment to work with the DOT.



DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and DOTr Secretary Arturo Tugade signing the Memorandum of Agreement titled, "Institutionalized Leveraging of Infrastructure Program for Airport Development (iLIPAD)."

Puyat noted that the convergence program leverages on the existing convergence between DOT and the Department of Public

TOURISM STARTUPS FOCUS ON INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in association with Globalia, the leading tourism group in Spain and Latin America, has selected the finalists of the 2nd Global Tourism Startup Competition, an initiative that the two entities have been working on since 2018 when its first edition was held.

In the competition's first two editions, Wakalua, the global tourism innovation hub powered by Globalia, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, has received proposals of nearly 5,000 startups from 150 countries. The countries with the highest number of projects submitted have been Spain, followed by India, the United States, Portugal, Nigeria and Colombia. The second edition features startups in a more mature stage, with 10% having had more than EUR 500,000 in turnover in 2018. The finalists will present their projects at the Wakalua headquarters in Madrid. Seven will win awards in their respective categories. WTO

50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA NETWORK

Works and Highways (DPWH) for tourism roads, DPWH–DOTr for access roads to airports and partnerships with other agencies and the private sector. The convergence program is an implementation of Section 34 of RA9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009 and the National Tourism Development Program for 2016–2022.









On January 7, 2020, Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in a new Austrian Federal Government formed by the conservative Austrian People's Party (OeVP) and the ecologist Green Party. The new Government is once again led by Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who already served in this capacity from 2017 to 2019. (Austria News)

PHL Embassy repatriates Filipinos from Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Philippine Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Renato Pedro O. Villa and Assistance-to-Nationals Officer Ryan Dasal were in Haiti on 11-14 January 2020 to assist in the repatriation of 30 Filipino nationals, composed of 9 minors and 21 adults, to the Philippines.

The Filipino community in Haiti petitioned the said repatriation because of the unstable economic and security situations in the country, caused by continuous civil unrest, crime, and kidnapping.

Most of the minor repatriates will continue their studies in the Philippines.

The repatriates were divided into two (2)

groups – the Philippine Airlines (PAL) group which is composed of 17 repatriates, and Asiana Airlines group which is composed of 13 repatriates. Both groups arrived in the Philippines on Janury 16, 2020.

"Ensuring the safety and well-being of our overseas Filipinos remain a top priority of the Philippine Government. The Philippine Embassy, along with the Philippine Consulates **General and Honorary Philippine Consulates** in the United States and in the Caribbean, are always here to listen and provide assistance to our kababavansas the need arises," Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez said in a separate statement.

US Ambassador Kim announces Php 5.1M in relief assistance for communities affected by Taal Volcano

NASUGBU, Batangas— During a visit to a school serving as an evacuation center in Nasugbu, Batangas on January 22, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Y. Kim announced the provision of Php 5.1 million (\$100,000) in U.S. government support to those affected by the January 12 Taal volcanic eruption. Ambassador Kim also joined Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) partners to distribute supplies to evacuees in Calatagan.

With this new funding, the United States government, through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partner World Vision, is providing relief supplies including soap, sleeping mats, and blankets, to nearly 7,600 people in the Nasugbu West Central School evacuation center in Batangas

While at the evacuation site, the Ambassador spoke with families who were forced to evacuate their homes. "I'm inspired by the strength and resilience of these families who faced such devastation and loss following the volcanic eruption. As friends, partners, and allies to the Philippines, we will continue to support our Philippine government counterparts as they work to address the needs of those communities most affected by the eruption."

In Calatagan, Ambassador Kim thanked PDRF companies for their assistance to evacuees. "I have been very encouraged to see the private



sector – American companies alongside Philippine companies – mobilize to address urgent needs of communities following the Taal volcanic eruption." PDRF is a major private sector vehicle and coordinator for disaster management in the Philippines.

This newly announced U.S. assistance complements existing support to transport emergency supplies to evacuees, provide technical assistance to manage evacuation centers, and loan specialized equipment and analytic support to monitor the Taal volcano.

US gov't launches Php 153-Million project to support Philippine efforts to counter human trafficking

traffickers and illegal recruiters all over the

world. Through our programs, we partner with

MANILA — The U.S. government is supporting the Philippine government's commitment to end modern day slavery with the launch of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s threeyear, Php153 million (\$3 million) Strengthening Local Systems and Partnerships for More Effective Counter-Trafficking in Persons in the Philippines project. USAID will partner with the Philippines.

This project complements ongoing U.S. assistance against human trafficking, such as the Child Protection Compact and the Program to End Modern Slavery. Together, these three

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step -LaoTzu



programs represent a more than Php510 million our friends and allies to strengthen social safety U.S. government commitment to anti-human nets and the rule of law, as well as expand cititrafficking efforts in the Philippines. zens' education and employment opportunities." At the project launch, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim stressed that, "Men, women, and children continue to fall prey to

Ambassador Kim also lauded the Philippine government for its strong commitment to addressing trafficking in persons, as well as local

civil society organizations for working together

Filipinos line up at Haiti's airport prior to boarding their flights to the Philippines.

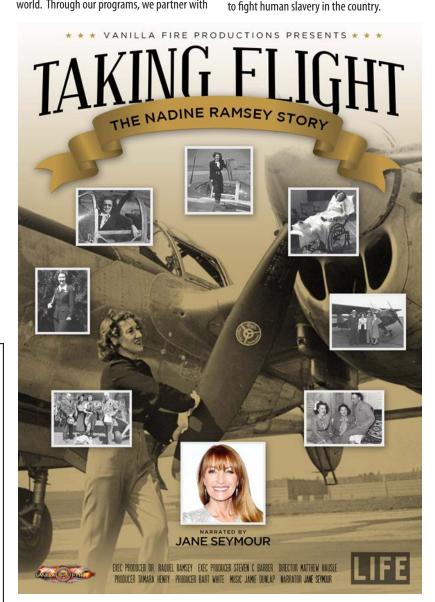


The Department of State is pleased to announce the participation of the United States in Expo 2020 Dubai, the next World's Fair and the first in the Middle East and Africa. Expos. also known in the United St

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World's Fairs, are significant opportunities to showcase American freedom, ideals, enterprise, culture, and global leadership.

The U.S. pavilion is made possible by the generosity of the Emirati government in recognition of the strong partnership between the United States and the United Arab Emirates. This is a historic opportunity for a global audience to experience the U.S. pavilion and Expo 2020 Dubai when it opens its gates in October 2020 for an expected 25 million visits during the six-month long event.

Importantly, the American private sector will have a golden opportunity to showcase its creativity and innovation, as well as pursue business partnerships and new markets with corporate leaders from around the world.

The Department is dedicated to developing an exciting U.S. pavilion at Expo 2020 with an exhibition that engages visitors from around the world to learn more about the United States and the freedom that enables success and innovation.

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• GLOBAL ISSUES • PUBLIC DIPLOMACY •

The world mourns the loss of Kobe Bryant

MESSAGE FROM HIS WIFE VANESSA



"My girls and I want to thank the millions of people who've shown support and love during this horrific time. Thank you for all the prayers. We definitely need them. We are completely devastated by the sudden loss of my adoring husband, Kobe — the amazing father of our children; and my beautiful, sweet Gianna — a loving, thoughtful, and wonderful daughter, and amazing sister to Natalia, Bianka, and Capri," Vanessa wrote. "We are also devastated for the families who lost their loved ones on Sunday, and we share in their grief intimately. There aren't enough words to describe our pain right now. I take comfort in knowing that Kobe and Gigi both knew that they were so deeply loved. We were so incredibly blessed to have them in our lives. I wish they were here with us forever. They were our beautiful blessings taken from us too soon."

" I'm not sure what our lives hold beyond today, and it's impossible to imagine life without them. But we wake up each day, trying to keep pushing because Kobe, and our baby girl, Gigi, are shining on us to light the way. Our love for them is endless — and that's to say, immeasurable. I just wish I could hug them, kiss them and bless them. Have them here with us, forever," she continued. "Thank you for sharing your joy, your grief and your support with us. We ask that you grant us the respect and privacy we will need to navigate this new reality. To honor our Team Mamba family, the Mamba Sports Foundation has set up the MambaOnThree Fund to help support the other families affected by this tragedy. To donate, please go to MambaOnThree.org. To further Kobe and Gianna's legacy in youth sports, please visit MambaSportsFoundation.org. Thank you so much for lifting us up in your prayers, and for loving Kobe, Gigi, Natalia, Bianka, Capri and me. #Mamba #Mambacita #GirlsDad #DaddysGirls #Family."

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Public Affairs









The NBA announced "that jerseys for the 2020 All-Star Game will feature a special tribute to basketball legend Kobe Bryant , his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna , and seven other victims of the Jan. 26 helicopter crash in Calabasas, California".

"The game will feature two teams, one represented by LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and the other by Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks. All members of Team LeBron will wear No. 2 on their jerseys, in memory of Gianna, who wore the number as a member of the Mamba Sports Academy. In turn, Team Giannis players will wear No. 24 in honor of Bryant, who wore the number in the latter half of his career".

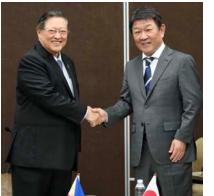
"To pay tribute to the other victims, both teams will wear patches with nine stars to represent all who were lost in the crash, including John Altobelli, Keri Altobelli, Alyssa Altobelli, Sarah Chester, Peyton Chester, Christina Mauser and Ara Zobayan, the pilot".



PH eyes more financing from Japan for 'Build' program

PASAY CITY-- The Philippines will explore more opportunities to tap additional financing and technical support from Japan as the government shifts to higher gear this year the implementation of accelerates President Duterte's centerpiece program "Build, Build, Build," Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has said.

During his bilateral meeting with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Secretary Dominguez also thanked Japan and its people "for being a steady force in (the Philippines') economic and development icurpor"



the relationship between the Philippines and Japan under the leadership of President Duterte and Prime Minister Shinzō Abe is now at a "golden age" where both countries continue "to enjoy broad-based and multi-layer development, including in the economy, infrastructure development, security, and people-to-people exchanges."

He expressed his condolences and sympathies to the victims of last year's earthquake in Mindanao and offered Japan's support, knowledge and experience in disaster response and risk reduction.

Minister Motegi also reiterated Japan's support for the Philippines'"Build, Build, Build" program and welcomed the "great progress" on infrastructure development cooperation between the two countries.



TOPICS :

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unicy.

Secretary Dominguez said he looks forward to more frequent consultations with the Japanese government in the coming period, as the Philippines continues on the path to rapid



and inclusive economic growth. Minister Motegi, in response, said that

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JANUARY 2020



Things to know about volcanoes

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust that allows molten rock, gases, and debris to escape to the surface. Alaska, Hawaii, California, and Oregon have the most active volcanoes, but other states and territories have active volcanoes, too. A volcanic eruption may involve lava and other debris that can flow up to 100 mph, destroying everything in their path. Volcanic ash can travel 100s of miles and cause severe health problems. A volcanic eruption can:

- · Contaminate water supplies.
- Damage machinery.

• Reduce visibility through smog and harmful gases that may threaten low-lying areas.

· Make it hard to breathe and irritate the skin, eyes, nose, and throat.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A VOLCANO WARNING:

• Listen for emergency information and alerts.

· Follow evacuation or shelter orders. If advised to evacuate, then do so early.

Avoid areas downstream of the eruption

- Protect yourself from falling ash.
- · Do not drive in heavy ash fall.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A VOLCANO **THREATENS:**

Prepare NOW

• Know your area's risk from volcanic eruption.

· Ask local emergency management for evacuation and shelter plans, and for potential means of protection from ash.

• Learn about community warning systems by signing up for a free service called theVolcano Notification Service (VNS) that

FTC says "Success By Health" is a pyramid scheme

By SEENA GRESSIN Attorney, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC Earn UNLIMITED income! Quit your job! Change your life!

Do we have your attention? Good! Are you rolling your eyes? Even better. That means you've heard warnings about illegal pyramid schemes that masquerade as legitimate multilevel marketing (MLM) businesses and promise life-changing income, but take your money instead.

The FTC's latest case charging a company with operating a pyramid scheme concerns "Success By Health" (SBH), a venture that the FTC alleges has bilked consumers who joined its sales network as "Affiliates" out of more than \$7 million.

According to the FTC, SBH tells consumers they can replace their job income in six months and gain "financial freedom" in 18 months by selling its coffee, tea, and dietary supplements and recruiting other people to do the same. In

sends notifications about volcanic activity.

· Get necessary supplies in advance in

case you have to evacuate immediately, or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets.

· Consult your doctor if you have existing respiratory difficulties.

 Practice a communication and evacuation plan with everyone in your family.

· Have a shelter-in-place plan if your biggest risk is from ash.

· Keep important documents in a safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.

· Find out what your homeowner's insurance policy will cover when a volcano erupts. Survive DURING

• Listen to alerts. The Volcano Notification

Service provides up-to-date information about eruptions. · Follow evacuation orders from local

authorities. Evacuate early. Avoid areas downwind, and river valleys

downstream, of the volcano. Rubble and ash will be carried by wind and gravity.

• Take temporary shelter from volcanic ash where you are if you have enough supplies. Cover ventilation openings and seal doors and

windows.

· If outside, protect yourself from falling ash that can irritate skin and injure breathing passages, eyes, and open wounds. Use a well-fitting, certified face mask such as an N95. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a list of certified masks and the maker's instructions on how to use the masks.

 Avoid driving in heavy ash fall. Be Safe AFTER

Listen to authorities to find out when it is safe to return after an eruption.

· Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy after a disaster. Only make emergency calls.

 Avoid driving in heavy ash. Driving will stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines and stall vehicles.

• If you have any breathing problems, avoid contact with ash. Stay indoors until authorities say it is safe to go outside.

• Do not get on your roof to remove ash unless you have guidance or training. If you have to remove ash, then be very careful as ash makes surfaces slippery. Be careful not to contribute additional weight to an overloaded roof. - ready.gov

BLUE CAMPAIGN - FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for DHS' efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign is working to end human trafficking. Through the Blue Campaign, DHS raises public awareness about human trafficking, working with organizations and making awareness-raising resources available to educate the public to recognize human trafficking and report suspected instances.



U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos provides updated school prayer quidance

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently announced that the Department of Education is taking several concrete actions to protect religious liberty and ensure the Department is acting in accordance with the First Amendment. The Department announced a proposed rule ensuring the equal treatment and constitutional rights of religious organizations and faith-based institutions, as well as First Amendment freedoms owed to students on campus. As directed by Congress, the agency will also release updated guidance regarding constitutionally protected prayer in schools.

"Our actions today will protect the constitutional rights of students, teachers, and faith-based institutions," said Secretary DeVos. "The Department's efforts will level the playing field between religious and non-religious organizations competing for federal grants, as well as protect First Amendment freedoms on campus and the religious liberty of faith-based institutions. I proudly share President Trump's commitment to religious freedom and the First Amendment."

In a separate action, for the first time since 2003, the Department also issued updated guidance on constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools.



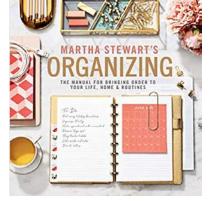
INM Book Choices

Martha Stewart's Organizing: The Manual for **Bringing Order to Your Life, Home & Routines**

By MARTHA STEWART

The ultimate guide to getting your life in order-with hundreds of practical and empowering ideas, projects, and tips—from America's most trusted lifestyle authority

Trust Martha to help you master all things organizing—sorting, purging, tidying, and simplifying your life—with smart solutions and inspiration. Here, she offers her best guidance, methods, and DIY projects for organizing in and around your home. Topics include room-byroom strategies (how to sort office paperwork, when to purge the garage or attic), seasonal advice (when to swap out bedding and clothing, how to put away holiday decorations), and day-by-day or week-by-week plans for projects such as de-cluttering, house cleaning, creating a filing system, overhauling the closet, and more. Martha's indispensable expertise walks you through goal-setting, principles of organizing, useful supplies, and creating systems for ongo-



ing success. A look into Martha's own personal calendars offers a template for scheduling essential tasks. Last, plenty of strategies, howtos, timelines, and checklists will help you stay organized all year long. B&N

Small Chang

around the world, Fogg brings his proven

method to a global audience for the first time.

Whether you want to lose weight, de-stress,

Tiny Habits: The Small Changes That Change Everything

By BJ FOGG PhD

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! The world's leading expert on habit formation shows how you can have a happier, healthier life: by starting small.

Myth: Change is hard. Reality: Change can be easy if you know the simple steps of Behavior Design.

Myth: It's all about willpower. Reality: Willpower is fickle and finite, and exactly the wrong way to create habits.

Myth: You have to make a plan and stick to it. Reality: You transform your life by starting small and being flexible.

BJ FOGG is here to change your life—and revolutionize how we think about human behavior. Based on twenty years of research and Fogg's experience coaching more than 40,000 people, Tiny Habits cracks the code of habit formation. With breakthrough discoveries in every chapter, you'll learn the simplest proven ways to transform your life. Fogg shows you how to feel good about your successes instead of bad about your failures.

Already the habit guru to companies





reality, the FTC says, the vast majority of SBH Affiliates pay SBH more than they earn.

The complaint alleges that SBH pushes Affiliates to max out their credit cards, borrow from family, get bank loans, and sell or mortgage their homes to buy inventory and attend costly "training" programs. But, according to the FTC, the amount Affiliates earn is based on how many new Affiliates they recruit and how much inventory they and their recruits buy, not on their sales of SBH products to retail customers. At the FTC's request, a federal court has ordered SBH to halt its allegedly unlawful activities while the case is pending.

If you're planning to buy into an MLM plan, get the details. Start by searching online for the name of the company and words like review, scam, or complaint. Be skepticalof portrayals of lavish lifestyles made possible by participating in the program. And, if promoters emphasize recruiting as the real way to make money, head for the nearest exit. That's a hallmark of a pyramid scheme.



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The truth behind weight loss ads

Wouldn't it be nice if you could lose weight simply by taking a pill, wearing a patch, or rubbing in a cream? Unfortunately, claims that you can lose weight without changing your habits just aren't true, and some of these products could even hurt your health. So don't be hooked by ads that woo you with wild promises — or by glowing product reviews and "news articles" that are often fake. All you'll lose is money. Doctors, dieticians, and other experts agree: the best way to lose weight is to eat less and exercise more.

If you're looking to lose weight, watch this video and read the rest of the article. This information will help you identify false claims in weight loss ads and false online stories about

IN STUDENT HOUSING, OFF CAMPUS OR WITH PARENTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS COUNT IN 2020 CENSUS

A freshman living on campus in student housing. A junior varsity athlete sharing an offcampus house with teammates. A senior living solo in an off-campus apartment.

Even though many residents of a typical American college town might move away after they graduate, they have to be counted while they live there.

College towns across the country depend on students' responses to the census. The reason: Census results help determine how much federal funding communities will receive over the next 10 years. A complete and accurate count in 2020 is so important that the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring an estimated 500,000 temporary employees to ensure everyone is counted.

Students in college towns use critical local resources, including roads, public transportation and health clinics. Getting funds for those resources, however, depends on making sure students are counted in the right place each census. When responding to the 2020 Census, college students should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time as of April 1, 2020. For most students, that means in their college town, not back home with their parents.

Parents or guardians should only include children in college who live with them full time during the school year. weight loss products.

False promises in ads Dishonest advertisers will say just about anything to get you to buy their weight loss products.

Here are some of the (false) promises from weight loss ads:

 Lose weight without dieting or exercising. (You won't.)

 You don't have to watch what you eat to lose weight. (You do.)
 If you use this product, you'll lose

weight permanently. (Wrong.)

• To lose weight, all you have to do is take this pill. (Not true.)

• You can lose 30 pounds in 30 days. (Nope.)

This product works for everyone. (It doesn't.)
 Lose weight with this patch or cream.

(You can't.) Here's the truth:

Any promise of miraculous weight loss

is simply untrue.

 There's no magic way to lose weight without a sensible diet and regular exercise.
 No product will let you eat all the food

you want and still lose weight.

Permanent weight loss requires
permanent lifestyle changes, so don't trust any
product that promises once-and-for-all results.

 FDA-approved fat-absorption blockers or appetite suppressants won't result in weight loss on their own; those products are to be taken with a low-calorie, low-fat diet and regular exercise.

• Products promising lightning-fast weight loss are always a scam. Worse, they can ruin your health.

• Even if a product could help some people lose weight in some situations, there's no one-size-fits-all product guaranteed to work for everyone. Everyone's habits and health concerns are unique.

• Nothing you can wear or apply to your skin will cause you to lose weight. Period. - FTC

Getting your credit report

By LISA WEINTRAUB SCHIFFERLE Attorney, FTC, Division of Consumer & Business Education

Now that you know why credit matters, it's time to get your credit in order. Sometimes the hardest part is getting started. The first step is to pull your credit report.

How do you get your credit report? Request a free copy at annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228. Other sites may charge money or may be set up to steal your personal information.

Here's what to expect when you go to annualcreditreport.com: First, you'll fill out a form with your name, birth date, and Social Security number. Make sure you're using a secured internet connection, like at home – not public Wi-Fi.

Next, you'll pick which reports you want. You're entitled to a free report each year from each of the nationwide credit bureaus – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Sometimes one bureau will have slightly different information than the others. So, you'll want to make sure all three reports are accurate. You can get the reports all at once or stagger your requests to keep an eye on things throughout the year. The choice is up to you.

Last, you'll answer questions about the

American

Red Cross



person you know best – you. They may be about prior addresses, loans, or other personal information. This is to make sure that it's really you ordering your report. If you have trouble with the online questions, you can call 1-877-322-8228.

Then, you'll get a copy of your credit report. You can look at it then or download it to review later. Just remember to keep the report stored securely – either under lock and key if it's paper, or on a password-protected device if it's digital.

For more tips, read Free Credit Reports. Curious about what to do next? Stay tuned for our next two blogs about how to read your credit report and how to fix any mistakes on it. Each day you're moving closer to getting a handle on your credit in the new year. - *FTC*



What you should know about nCoV

SYMPTOMS AND DIAGNOSIS

Symptoms

Common human coronaviruses, including types 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1, usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time. Symptoms may include: runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever, and a general feeling of being unwell

Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis.

This is more common in people with cardiopulmonary disease, people with weakened immune systems, infants, and older adults.

TRANSMISSION

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through

- the air by coughing and sneezing
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands

• touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

• rarely, fecal contamination

In the United States, people usually get infected with common human coronaviruses in the fall and winter. However, you can get infected at any time of the year. Most people will get infected with one or more of the common human coronaviruses in their lifetime. Young children are most likely to get infected. However, people can have multiple infections in their lifetime.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Prevention: How to protect yourself

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. You may be able to reduce your risk of infection by doing the following

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are sick

For information about hand washing, see CDC's Clean Hands Save Lives! *How to protect others*

If you have cold-like symptoms, you can help protect others by doing the following

- stay home while you are sick
- avoid close contact with others

• cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands

- clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Treatment

There are no specific treatments for illnesses caused by human coronaviruses. Most people with common human coronavirus illness will recover on their own. However, you can do some things to relieve your symptoms

- take pain and fever medications (Caution: do not give Aspirin to children)
- use a room humidifier or take a hot shower to help ease a sore throat and cough If you are mildly sick, you should
- drink plenty of liquids
- stay home and rest

If you are concerned about your symptoms, you should see your healthcare provider. *Source: CDC*









ÎNMN

An Exclusive Interview by AWEE ABAYARI with JO-JO VALENZUELA,

Award-Winning Professional Bartender/Chef

For more of the interview: www.youtube.com/ Awee Abayari

An award winning professional bartender / beverage consultant and chef in the DC metropolitan area, Jo-Jo Valenzuela is the owner of Game DC and Tiki on 18th. He is the former DC Brand Agent for Absolut Elyx and as a certified Training for Intervention Procedures trainer, he has been recognized for his work to prevent alcohol-related incidents Some of his awards include 2015 DC's 8th Annual Rickey Champion; 2015 Margarita Wars Judges' Vote Champion; 2014 Prince George's Best In Glass Grand Finale Champion and Spring Edition Champion; 2013 and 2014 Beacon Bar and Grill Annual Best Martini in DC; and Bourbon Steak's 2013 DC Old Fashioned Throw down etc.

Jo-Jo is married to Christina Garcia Valenzuela, an accountant by profession and who is also an excellent pastry chef. They are blessed with three sons, Lorenzo Xavier, Sebastian Vader, and Dominic Sid.

* * * * *

"Learn three new things everyday. Do not consider yourself a failure. You must learn something new, learn from your mistakes.'

"Follow your heart. Life is so short. Why waste it on something you do not believe in?

"Do something you love so you do not consider yourself actually working.'

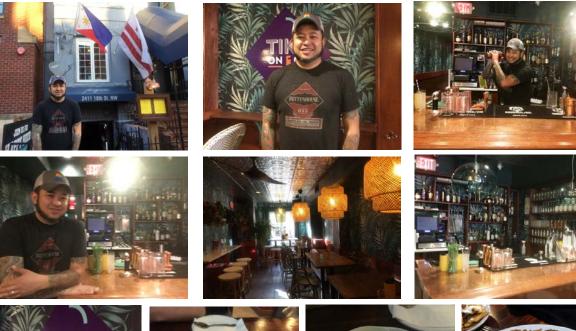
"I am that bartender who is a Filipino who really wants to do a Filipino bar. It is our turn; it is long overdue." JO-JO VALENZUELA



Senator Manny Pacquiao hosts a fellowship dinner for the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVP) at his General Santos residence on Friday. The LVP held their National Assembly in nearby Sarangani Province



Boxing legend and Philippine Senator Manny Pacquiao receives his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree from the University of Makati on Wednesday. The





Awee Abayari: How did you start your business in the hospitality industry?

Jo-jo Valenzuela: I started bartending in '97 so I can make a living and pursue my music career. When I became a father, the button got switched. Music literally disappeared and I went to beverage, learning about wines, wine tasting, how to figure out where it was made, year it was made, breaking down cocktails to a tee. Then, this drive of knowing a lot more about the craft, beverage in particular, I worked with very passionate chefs in DC, started picking their brains out, how their minds worked in creating their beverage, flavors, and creating their food. I learned a whole lot from them. There was a time in DC, when it was such a boom that everybody was making things on their own from scratch. It was great and luckily, I was a greatest proponent of that. I supported my bartender friends and I have been consulting on and off 2001-2002 and then, full time I did it in 2015. I had been teaching alcohol awareness classes since 2009 and now, more about kitchen and healthy way of executing stuff in the kitchen, making sure it is to the health code.

About cooking, I asked my mom for recipes here and there. I developed my palate for wines and food, it inspired me to follow my heritage. There is not a whole lot of Filipino food in DC. And finally , I did it on my own. People liked it a lot and I realized we had something to offer. It worked out ! We opened a sports bar (Game DC), offered international recipes and on the second floor, a lounge (Tiki on 18th), a dining focused concept.

Awee Abayari: What Filipino food do you offer aside from the regular sports bar food?

Jo-Jo Valenzuela: Filipino items : Sisig, Filipino barbecue bowl, beef pares, lumpia, Jo-jo's pansit, etc. I can say, that" the success

Awee Abayari: What does the future hold for Jo-jo Valenzuela ? Would you like to share your future plans?

Jo-Jo Valenzuela: I love sharing this info. I am a big proponent of the Filipino in the hospitality scene . I really want Filipinos and other cultures to know what we have. I am that bartender who is a Filipino who really wants to do a Filipino bar. It is our turn, it is long overdue. I want to have a fast food presence, do more catering in the right way, like having a restaurant doing it the professional way.

Awee Abayari: What is your family background?

Jo-Jo Valenzuela: My mom would be the perfect definition of a foodie. My dad is not hard to please as far as food. But, my mom would travel, she would take us out to different places to try other food and cultures. That played a big role on me . When we moved over here, that still continued. The pansit (Jo-jo's Pansit) that we serve here is completely from Pasig. Pasiguenos would be familiar with that, because it has chicharon. We just cook it properly, get the best ingredients we can find and make sure we give it our all.

I have an older brother and an older sister: both are in the industry. My sister is an architect and is also a very good chef and my brother is in the industry and spends sometime in the kitchen.

Awee Abayari: Who is Jo-jo Valenzuela? Jo-Jo Valenzuela: Born and raised in Cainta, Rizal. I moved here in 1996 as a student and a musician, with not a lot of future , ended up bartending to follow my dream as a musician. I did that for many years until I became a father and my priorities changed a bit in 2008-2009. My passion in music completely stopped and it switched to food and drinks . I ended

it is about hospitality. I became an Ambassador for a couple of brands. Of the multiple awards I received, my most favorite award was when I won the Rickey Award (Official Cocktail of Washington, DC). I made a "Guavamansi" soda, made some lemon grass with "labuyo syrup, added some champagne yeast to it and carbonated it naturally. There you go. It ended becoming a great product , luckily I won. I definitely cried in front of hundreds of people. That was so meaningful because I was with my family. My two sons (Lorenzo and Sebastian) at that time were still tiny, my wife was there and my mother-in-law was there, too. All my friends were there, it was great.

Awee Abayari: Your most important challenge and your message to those who would like to follow your footsteps as a successful business man and an award winning bartender and chef?

Jo-Jo Valenzuela: First , stay in school. I was into sports , played music and did not take school seriously. I wish I could turn back time. Now, I got so passionate with beverage and cooking and I would pick a book just to learn something, watch a video just to learn something. I would watch the Food Network and go out to different bars and learn from different chefs and bartenders. Just imagine if I actually did that when I was a kid. That being said, just because I did not do that, I still had enough time to mend my mistakes.

I learned this from my mentor, "Learn three new things everyday".

Do not consider yourself a failure. You must learn something new, learn from your mistakes. I still make mistakes but I do not want to repeat them.

Follow your heart. Life is so short. Why waste it on something you do not believe in. Do something you love so you do not

consider yourself actually working.

fighting senator majors in Local Government Administration.



Boxing legend and Philippine senator Manny Pacquiao celebrates his 41st birthday at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

(Photos by Wendell Alinea/OSMP)



of our place is because of the Filipino food". up becoming a sommelier. I am a bartender, Awee Abayari: Thank you very much.



of our place is because of the Filipino food". up becoming a sommelier. I am a bartender, Awee Abayari: Thank you very much. **JULIET POSADAS SCHOOL OF MUSIC** Graduate . UP Conservatory of Music Scholar of Yamaha Organ School of Music celebrity concert artist, accomplished singer, pianist, organist, arranger • Offers private lessons and group classes for all ages • Teaches a variety of musical styles: classical, pop music, light jazz and Broadway • Prepares students for recitals and performances • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes Certification of Achievement upon completion • Meretain et al. 2010 • Offers private lessons and group classes for all ages • Teaches a variety of musical styles: classical, pop music, light jazz and Broadway • Prepares students for recitals and performances • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also teach music by ear and by reading notes • Can also



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THANK YOU, LORD, FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

