

ISLAND MOMENTS



BY EMME TOMIMBANG

Island moments...

# “BACK TO SIQUIJOR, KAHANAMOKU SCHOLARS, SOCIETY OF SEVEN & HAWAII 5-0 IS BACK AND MORE!”



Al Harrington, Emme and Chef Nobu Matsuhisa at the Hawaii Five-O Premiere at Sunset on the Beach, Waikiki.



The Lindsey family holding a paddle made from the same tree as Ka'ilila'au's canoe.



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It's been awhile since we've visited our page here in the *Fil-Am Courier*. Lots of exciting moments have come our way since our Emme's Classic Island Moments article in April. Here's a glimpse of a few 'island moments' we'd like to share with you.

**JUNE**

At the end of May I spent two weeks through early June attending a reunion on the island of Siquijor, (Philippines) where my father was born. It's been very difficult to talk about this life-altering experience. I met 300 new relatives and rediscovered my Filipino heritage and my Visayan roots. All I can say is, when I'm ready, I will be putting the adventure into a documentary

special, which will hopefully air before the year ends or early 2011.

We also had a wonderful screening of "Mabuhay With Aloha" in Manila at the Filipino Heritage Library upon my return from Siquijor to Manila. About 40 enthusiastic Philippine filmmakers, educators and members of the Filipino Heritage Library were there to discuss and share Hawaii Filipino experiences.

**JULY**

It was a very sad time to say goodbye to Chief Justice (CJ) Bill Richardson. I had the honor of producing his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday video last December. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to do this, to know him and to be able to share his life with students and faculty at his

law school, William S. Richardson Law School, and with the legal community. My husband was one of four people who paid tribute to him at his funeral services. Jim was very close to CJ. CJ and Jim's father, Governor John Burns were among the very few and special architects of the Hawaii we see today.

**AUGUST - a month of speaking engagements!**

21<sup>st</sup> — I helped the Visayan Hinabangay celebrate its 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in Waipahu. I grew up in that clubhouse and was excited to see it still in its original form, sharing events with longtime members. I also shared my adventures in Siquijor since many of the members are also from the island.



The SOS boys are back!



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ISLAND MOMENTS



Nadine Kahanamoku and Emme.



Tomimbang "To Siquijor with Aloha" family reunion in Siquijor, Philippines.

It was wonderful to talk about Siquijor to those who had been from or to the island.

22<sup>nd</sup> — It was an honor and a privilege to speak at the opening and the lei draping ceremony of Duke Kahanamoku's Waikiki statue at the yearly Duke Kahanamoku Oceanfest. However, my role was to speak about Duke's wife, Nadine Alexander who upon her death donated the estate of Duke and Nadine Kahanamoku to the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

It was exciting to share that the legacy of Duke and Nadine Kahanamoku extends beyond water sports. It's been 11 years now since a scholarship was formed in their names. Total to date \$2 million have been given to 170 scholarship applicants and most of them are now practicing doctors in Hawaii.

23<sup>rd</sup> — It was Women's Equality Day and I was asked to open the forum and panel discussion with military women at Camp Smith. I spoke to a group of Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard women. It was good to share that back in 1980 the women of KITV went on strike for "equal work for equal pay."

It's been 30 years and it feels good to be one of the pioneers of women in television broadcasting getting appropriate compensation for our work! It was also fascinating to see and hear what strides women have also made in the armed forces. I met a lot of very interesting and accomplished women!

SEPTEMBER

**Hawaii 5-0 is back!** And I had the privilege of attending the Sunset on the Beach Premiere on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> with Classic Hawaii 5-0 actor Al Harrington.

He played Ben Kokua for three years on the original show. We met the new producers and stars of the new 5-0 production crew and found them to be eagerly waiting for their version of the Classic 5-0 to be launched. We wish them well!

**Society of Seven** is also back for a limited engagement at the Outrigger SOS Main Showroom. Look for Elika Santos and Arshiel Calatrava – two new additions to the classic SOS group. It's amazing how SOS founder, Tony Ruivivar continues to make great talent finds in Hawaii. Elika is from Waipahu High School and Arshiel is currently a sophomore at Farrington High School. The SOS closes on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> for one week as they make special appearances on the mainland. They return Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> for another 4-5 week limited engagement. It's truly one of the best Waikiki shows and hopefully will revive the excitement of entertainment on the Waikiki strip!

**EMME Inc. Updates:**

Emme's Classic Island Moments played on KFVE Sunday nights for 24 episodes from March to August 2010. We had a blast bringing back past episodes and revisiting with our special guests: Al Harrington, Vicky Cayetano, Zoe Ann Roach, Jimmy Borges, Tom Moffatt, Nohelani Cypriano and others! We will be on hiatus till later next year. Mahalo for your enduring support always!

*EMME Inc.'s upcoming project: Look for a forthcoming Thanksgiving Special –*

**"Kaililau's Canoe — A Journey of Spirit."** It's a story of a young boy who died at the age of ten in a remote forest on Maui. His dream was to

have someone build a canoe out of his favorite tree on the family property. A Maui hotel was ironically looking for a tree to build a canoe as a hotel employee team building project. Serendipity would bring the family, the hotel and the canoe project together. The result: a 100-foot Albegia tree coming to life as a Voyaging Canoe. As part of the canoe's new life, one if its first voyages was to take the

family of the young boy, Ka'ilila'au and his family out to sea so they could scatter the boy's ashes. This television special is

a touching family Thanksgiving show. It reflects the island spirit of 'ohana' and the essence of gratitude and giving.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

"Ka'ilila'au's Canoe - A Journey of Spirit"  
 Premiere Broadcast: Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
 Encore Presentation: Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm on KGMB

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