

**IMMIGRANT LIVING:
101 AND BEYOND**



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

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

With each horrific case, the public seems to become more inured and desensitized to violence and death, becoming more accepting of all these, as a normal feature of modern life. Ever since the Columbine mass murder perpetrated by 2 young misguided misfits garbed in black trench coats about 10 years ago, things haven't been the same. There were copycats exhibiting lemming-like behavior since then. Evil glamorized by repetition and attention-getting drama seems to have morphed into many other incidents in North America and elsewhere, resulting

How not to dial M for murder

in incalculable, untold pain and suffering among families of the victims. We remember with great pain the Virginia Tech mass murder which snuffed out the lives of 32, including Cho, the killer, who was a quiet, deranged malcontent who never quite fit in. In the blogosphere chatter, many noted that perpetrators of this troubling trend were often the quiet ones. Word is out on the street to watch out for the quiet "pressure cooker" types, those who never cause a ripple and yet, has a fondness for weapons, but who can implode and explode with volcanic intensity and wipe out those around them.

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

Among ordinary families from all strata and from nearly every ethnic group, there has also been a rash of killings among fathers who have decided to kill themselves because of their failures and are taking their whole family with

them. On rare occasions, it is a mother who does it. Sometimes, the sick and the elderly decide to take matters into their own hands and end it all. The murder suicide rate among families is on the rise, thankfully not in epidemic proportions just yet as to cause panic. Nonetheless, each senseless death diminishes us. Perhaps, this is fueled by the effects of the economic downturn, with mounting financial pressures and with an unprecedented number of foreclosures, forcibly displacing families from their nests. And yet to merely focus on economics as the root of this troubling phenomenon is shortsighted and misses the whole point.

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

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

Continued on Page 7

The biggest Warehouse Sale is coming to New York on Sept. 18 & 19!

HOW can you keep up with latest fashion trends during these hard times?

Here is a tip from an industry insider. So listen up. The sale of the year isn't at the mall. It's a fashion event called The Warehouse Sale. This is the largest traveling fashion sale event crisscrossing the nation and bringing fashion excitement wherever they go, and it's on its way to New York. So bring the whole family and save a bundle. Premium denim, tops, dresses, hoodies, skirts, shoes for men and women at up to 80% discount should give anyone reason to make time for this event and be there.

Snooze and you lose. For TWO days only, September 18 & 19, Friday and Saturday 11AM to 8PM. The Warehouse Sale will be at The Gallery, 4th Level, 123 W. 18th St. New York, NY 10011. Event promoters are bringing over 20,000 items from LA's latest and hottest designer brands for men & women

at deeply discounted prices.

Picture yourself wearing these brand name items for so much less and feeling really good about it: True Religion, Seven, Ed Hardy, BCBG, William Rast, Rock and Republic, Christian Audigier, Monarchy, Laguna Beach, Lucky Brand, Frankie B, and many more premium brands. Log on and RSVP to www.TheWarehouseSale.com, and register to get your free admission. Or bring the Asian Journal ad to get in FOR FREE or pay \$5 at the door.

Don't forget the \$25.00 coupon in the Asian Journal ad. Clip it or bring the ad with you. Restrictions apply. The coupon is valid for one transaction of \$200.00 or more and cannot be combined with any other offers. Coupon expires 09/30/09.

Be there on September 18 and 19 at the Gallery. The Warehouse Sale, you can't miss this one!

(Advertising Supplement)



Over 20,000 items for men & women at up to 80% off!



Nation's largest designer fashion sale event is coming to the The Gallery in New York.



The first Filipino-American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) in Southern California is in search of talented musicians of all nationalities!

Come join us and learn about Filipino culture, meet new people and play your hearts out!

Auditions by appointment only. Requirements may include a prepared solo, orchestral excerpt and sight-reading. Send bio/ resume to filamsymphony@gmail.com.



ABOUT FASO

Established in Los Angeles County, which has the largest concentration of Filipinos outside of the Philippines, FASO is the first Filipino American orchestra of its kind. It aims to be a place where Filipino musicians can celebrate not only the standard classical repertoire, but also the rich heritage of original Filipino orchestral music. FASO not only introduces Filipino talent, but, true to the Filipino spirit, empowers other nationalities by being inclusive to all musical styles and performers.

AUDITION INQUIRIES

For further information, contact Maestro Robert Shroder at 818-395-8936 or email filamsymphony@gmail.com

JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

FOR a number of healthcare professions, obtaining continuing education (CE) credits is necessary to maintain a license. Professionals in the field need to accumulate a certain number of hours to renew their permit to practice. Aside from being a requirement, CE credits can also serve another purpose, enhancing not only one's ability to serve but enriching personal growth as well. Although most of the CE courses available are optional, ranging from a variety of disciplines equipping nurses, dentists and allied health professionals, some of its teachings are prerequisites to an excellent career.

As they say, different folks for different strokes, thus the reason why accumulating CE credits can be done in a variety of fashions. A number of institutions offer both online and offline educational programs allowing you to take advantage of the multitude of educational resources available while you gain the ability to master a specific field of study in the environment you find fit.

Consistently taking CE credits, however, can be a daunting task—especially for a stressed out professional. Unless of course he/she needs to do it to renew a license; although the benefits of packing up on this knowledge programs are obvious, here are three more benefits CE credits that makes the case on why you should go ahead and pursue this study.

It allows you to understand the world of care better

Any course you take in a CE credit program, regardless of what it is, whether it's a review course on basic first aid or a study on bioterrorism, brings you deeper in the world of care. Your horizons expand when you aim to understand, in a much larger perspective, the healthcare industry.

Aside from reviewing you on basic essentials or preparing you for things to come in the healthcare

Another perspective on continuing education

industry, you get different perspectives and methods on how your work can be performed more effectively as well as the best response you must have on different scenarios in your work environment. These matters enable you to have a more sophisticated and mature understanding on providing care.

CE courses discuss far more than the mundane realities of care provision, delving on the specifics and overlooked details involving tasks performed in the industry. As you gain knowledge, you gain different perspectives. These perspectives are new found nuggets of wisdom and stumbled upon inclinations which will allow you to know more about what you want to do as a healthcare professional.

It helps you refine your career path

As you understand the world of care deeper, you tread on paths of learning that gives you an idea on the types of duties you enjoy doing. These serve as guideposts when you specialize on a particular field. The more you learn, the more you understand your industry and have a better handle on your profession-enabling you to identify which part of your job you love best. As the field of healthcare is wide open, providing opportunities for you to do what you love best—CE credits becomes important in getting you closer to your area of passion.

Learning more about what you do and realizing what you love to do best, CE courses refreshes you on your perspective on what your job is all about. Deep within all the technicalities, the online classes, the classroom discussions, the lecture notes and the interaction between your instructor and fellow students lies the essence of why you're learning more. When you think about it, you aim to advance in your knowledge and ability to care for the recipients of care. The injured athlete, the ill child, a grandparent in pain or a breadwinner recovering from a major disease, these are the reasons why you need to be the best nurse, dentist,

physician assistant or physical therapist.

If you want to be the best you have to acquire all the appropriate knowledge, apply it full well and gain wisdom from the theories, concepts and procedures you learn. Knowing that by doing you fulfill your role more effectively. Your day to day responsibilities allows you to touch a person's life and make an impact that will last for a lifetime. Your goal then is to make a strong and positive impact.

Passion in your career will stem from a deep understanding of your job's purpose. If you enjoy your job, then you'll never have to work a day in your life. The first step to receive that joy begins by having a different perspective on your duties- which could be attained when you fully comprehend the purpose of your tasks.

Continuing Education is not all about passing a requirement or being the better nurse or therapist, but it's about striving for excellence in your capacity to share your life through professional care. When taking CE credits, you put yourself in an environment where you can realize the value of your work and how much it means to people around you.

Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruit RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO has offices in New York, and in New Jersey where it offers homecare services.

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