

2023 Art on Market Street

Rina Ayuyang

FINDING FILIPINO

on Kearny St.

WALKED UP KEARNY ALL THE WAY TO JACKSON TO GO TO THE KOMIKS EXPO AT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANILATOWN CENTER -- MORE WIDELY KNOWN AS I-HOTEL.

THIS BUILDING IS PRACTICALLY THE LAST REMNANT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ONCE KNOWN AS MANILATOWN WHICH IN ITS HEYDAY STRETCHED FOR 10 BLOCKS RIGHT NEXT TO CHINATOWN.

WOW, IS THIS AN ORIGINAL ALFREDO ALCALA?



THERE'S SO MUCH HISTORY OF AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY WITHIN ITS WALLS.

IT'S BEEN THE HOME TO MANY FILIPINOS WHO CAME TO THE U.S. AS FAR BACK AS 100 YEARS AGO.

IN 1977, ITS TENANTS WERE FORCIBLY EVICTED AND THE BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED TO MAKE ROOM FOR A PARKING LOT. IT TOOK COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM TO RECLAIM AND REBUILD I-HOTEL IN ITS CURRENT ITERATION.

HATS
HATS
HATS

I THINK ABOUT THE FILIPINOS WHO LIVED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE 20s-30s. DID THEY DARE TO DREAM THAT THEIR GRANDKIDS WOULD SOMEDAY GET TO CALL MANILATOWN THEIR HOME TOO?



FINDING FILIPINO

in the Park

VICTORIA "VICKI" MANALO DRAVES WAS BORN IN SOUTH OF MARKET.

HER FATHER WAS FILIPINO AND HER MOTHER WAS ENGLISH. BECAUSE OF THEIR INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE, THEIR FAMILY ENCOUNTERED MUCH DISCRIMINATION.



SHE WAS INTRODUCED TO DIVING AT AGE 16.

SINCE SHE WAS FILIPINO, VICKI HAD TO TRAIN AT SEGREGATED SWIMMING POOLS IN THE CITY.



HER STRENGTH, DETERMINATION, AND PERSISTENCE LED HER TO TWO GOLD MEDALS AT THE 1948 LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES.

IN FACT, SHE IS THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO WIN GOLD IN ANY OLYMPICS, AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO WIN BOTH SPRINGBOARD AND PLATFORM DIVING EVENTS.



MY FAMILY ARE SPORTS FANS, AND WHENEVER WE DISCOVER THAT AN ATHLETE IS FILIPINO, WE IMMEDIATELY FEEL EMPOWERED AND INSPIRED.



IT IS EXCITING TO SEE US REPRESENTED IN AN INDUSTRY THAT YOU TYPICALLY DON'T SEE FILIPINOS (ESPECIALLY IN THE STATES).

I THINK OF MY TEENAGE NEPHEW WHO PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL LEAGUES IN THE CITY...



... AND HOW AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT TO THE NBA, MAJOR LEAGUES, OR THE OLYMPICS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A FANTASY.

ON FOLSOM AND SHERMAN STREETS, YOU CAN VISIT THE VICTORIA MANALO DRAVES PARK.



IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE BESSIE CARMICHAEL SCHOOL, NAMED AFTER THE PRINCIPAL OF THE FORMER FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHICH VICKI AND HER SISTER ATTENDED IN THEIR YOUTH. BESSIE CARMICHAEL SCHOOL IS ALSO THE HOME OF THE FILIPINO EDUCATIONAL CENTER.

THE CENTER WAS FOUNDED IN THE 70'S TO HELP NEWLY IMMIGRATED FILIPINO KIDS LEARN ENGLISH, AND GET ACCUSTOMED TO LIFE IN AMERICA.



TODAY, THE CENTER WHICH VICKI ADVOCATED FOR, LETS STUDENTS LEARN TAGALOG AND FILIPINO CULTURE, WHILE GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS A REALITY.

FINDING FILIPINO *in South Park*



DURING THE DOT-COM DAYS, I WOULD TAKE THE OLD 15 BUS TO GET TO MY JOB AT A SOFTWARE START-UP ON 2ND STREET. I WOULD WALK OVER TO SOUTH PARK FOR LUNCH.



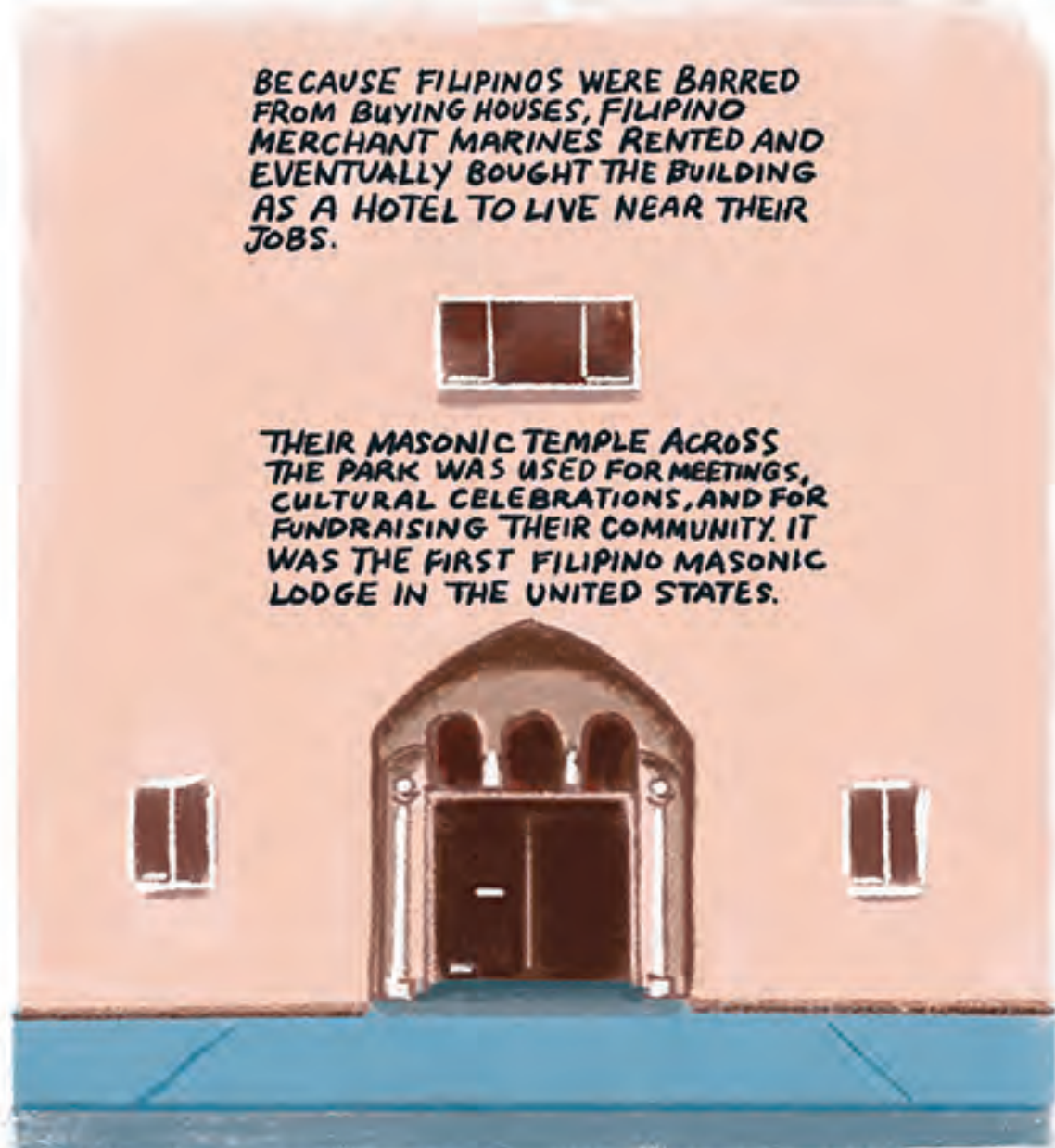
THIS TINY CIRCLE OF GREEN HAS BEEN HERE OVER 170 YEARS, BUT IS NOW SITUATED BETWEEN SLENDER TOWERS OF STEEL, CONCRETE, AND GLASS.



THERE IS A BUILDING QUIETLY NESTLED BETWEEN A CROWDED CAFE AND RESTAURANT BOTH FREQUENTED BY EMPLOYEES WHO WORK FOR THE SOFTWARE AND WEB DESIGN AGENCIES NEARBY.

THE BUILDING ONCE HAD AN IRON GATE AND ART-DECO STYLED SIGNAGE THAT ALWAYS STOOD OUT TO ME.

THE LETTERS, GLEAMING FROM THE NOON DAY SUN, STOICALLY MARKED THE EXISTENCE OF A FILIPINO COMMUNITY THAT MADE ITS HOME HERE SINCE THE 1930's.



BECAUSE FILIPINOS WERE BARRED FROM BUYING HOUSES, FILIPINO MERCHANT MARINES RENTED AND EVENTUALLY BOUGHT THE BUILDING AS A HOTEL TO LIVE NEAR THEIR JOBS.

THEIR MASONIC TEMPLE ACROSS THE PARK WAS USED FOR MEETINGS, CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, AND FOR FUNDRAISING THEIR COMMUNITY. IT WAS THE FIRST FILIPINO MASONIC LODGE IN THE UNITED STATES.



THROUGH THE YEARS AND THE ENDLESS RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC SURROUNDING THEM, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THIS TINY BLOCK OF SAN FRANCISCO THEIR HOME...

... EVEN AS TECH COMPANIES AND TRENDY BUSINESSES COME AND GO, AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSTANTLY CHANGES AROUND THEM.

FINDING FILIPINO

in SOMA

ON I-101, YOU CAN SEE A HUGE MURAL CASCADING ALONG THE SIDE OF A TALL APARTMENT BUILDING.

IT'S LIKE A BEACON MARKING THE EXISTENCE OF THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN SOUTH OF MARKET.



WHO WERE THESE FIGURES DEPICTED ON THE CONCRETE WALLS.



AT THE FOOT OF THE BUILDING, THE BLOCK OF STREETS ARE RENAMED AFTER REVOLUTIONARY HEROES.

BETWEEN FREEWAY ON-RAMPS AND CONVENTION CENTERS, SOMA FILIPINAS RECLAIMS A PIECE OF FILIPINO EXISTENCE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.

AS THE EYES OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE LOOK DOWN ON THEM.



THEY CONTINUE THE STORY THROUGH ART, MUSIC, DANCE, AND WRITING.

SAYING, "HERE WE ARE. HERE WE THRIVE. HERE WE STAY."

FINDING FILIPINO on Mission St.

MISSION ST. STRETCHES FROM DOWNTOWN TO NEIGHBORING DALY CITY AND THERE ARE GLIMPSES OF FILIPINO NEIGHBORHOODS ALONG THE WAY.

MOVIE THEATERS IN THE EXCELSIOR DISTRICT LIKE THE GRANADA AND AMAZON THEATERS SHOWED POPULAR FILIPINO FILMS IN THE 1970'S AND 80'S THE AMAZON THEATER WAS NAMED THE APOLLO THEN. IT'S NOW A WALGREENS, BUT PIECES OF THE OLD MARQUEE STILL PEEK THROUGH.

WHEN MY PARENTS ARRIVED IN AMERICA, THEY STAYED AT THEIR AUNTIE'S APARTMENT OFF MISSION. EVERY MORNING, MY MOM WOULD SEE MY DAD WALK TO THE 14 BUS STOP FOR WORK.

MY MOM WAS PREGNANT WITH MY OLDER SISTER AND WENT TO THE MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY TO STUDY FOR HER COURSES.



Venus BEAUTY C

Rufina FRESH SAUCE (PATIS)

"ALL AROUND SEASONING"

TLBC

SUPER

DECADES LATER, MY MOM IS NOW A LOLA (GRANDMOTHER), STILL ENJOYING THE COMFORTS OF HOME FROM THE VARIOUS FILIPINO BUSINESSES ON MISSION STREET.

BABY'S EATERY & PALABOK

Goldilocks

WE SELL BARONG TA MEN'S WO KID'S AVON DEA

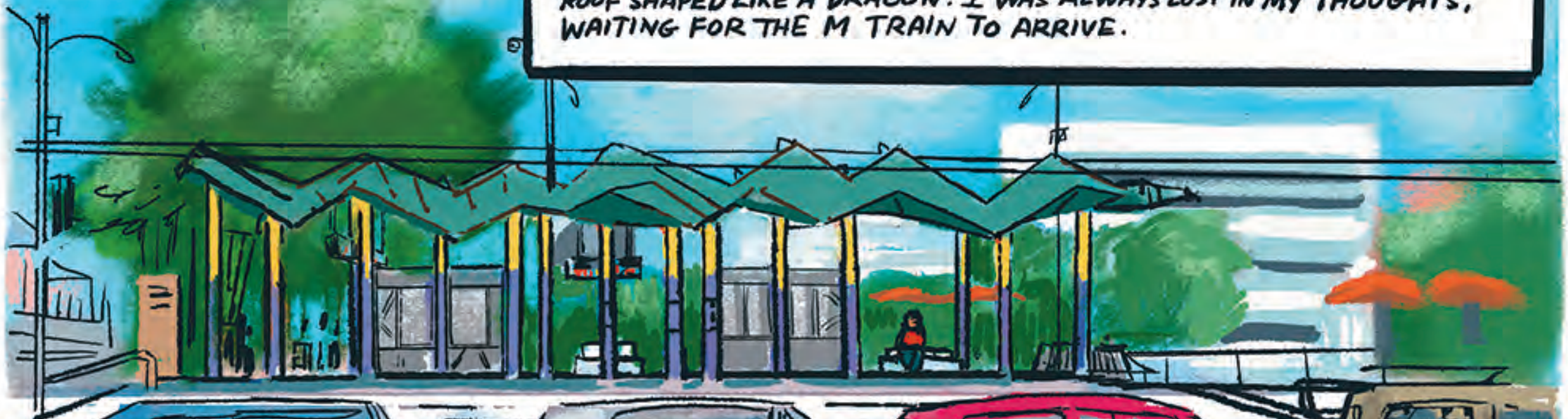
Filipino Community Center



THOUGH SOME OF THEM HAVE MOVED AWAY OR JUST CALLED IT A DAY, THEY HAVE MADE THEIR MARK IN THE VIBRANT, THRIVING THOROUGHFARE.

FINDING FILIPINO at SF State

MANY MOONS AGO, I WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY. EVERYDAY I WOULD SIT AT THE S.F. STATE MUNI STOP UNDER THE METAL ROOF SHAPED LIKE A DRAGON. I WAS ALWAYS LOST IN MY THOUGHTS, WAITING FOR THE M TRAIN TO ARRIVE.



I GOT TO TAKE CLASSES ALONGSIDE OTHER FILIPINO STUDENTS WHO WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR HISTORY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE. I WAS INTRODUCED TO AUTHORS AND ARTISTS WHO EMBRACED BEING ASIAN AND FILIPINO.

IN OUR IMAGE

Strangers from a Different Shore

ASIANS IN AMERICA

America Is In The Heart

Making Waves



Still from Filipino indie-film, "Perfumed Nightmare."

Today, we're going to talk about "Uyang na Loob."

AAS 355

HERE, I LEARNED THAT I WAS MORE THAN A "MODEL MINORITY". THAT I COULD BE AN ARTIST, A WRITER, AN ATHLETE-- ANYTHING I WANTED TO BE.



ON STRIKE!

DON'T GO TO CLASS!

STRIKE NOW!

SHUT IT DOWN!

AFL-CIO SUPPORT

THESE CLASSES WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN AVAILABLE WITHOUT THE WORK OF THE BLACK STUDENT UNION AND THE THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT PROTESTING FOR A COLLEGE THAT TRULY REPRESENTED AND SERVED THE CITY'S DIVERSE POPULATION.

THEY LED A STUDENT STRIKE THAT LASTED FOR FIVE MONTHS, THE LONGEST AT ANY COLLEGE. THEIR PERSEVERANCE LED TO THE CREATION OF A BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE FIRST EVER COLLEGE OF ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE NATION.



NOWADAYS, STUDENTS CAN GET LOST IN THEIR THOUGHTS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE ETHNIC STUDIES BUILDING, ADMIRING "THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE" DESIGNED BY RUTH ASAWA.

AT THE CESAR CHAVEZ STUDENT CENTER, THEY CAN LOOK AT THE MANY MURALS FOR INSPIRATION. EACH ONE COMMEMORATES GROUPS THAT CAME TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND EDUCATIONAL REFORMS THAT WOULD IMPACT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

FINDING FILIPINO *in the Avenues*



WHENEVER WE'D VISIT SAN FRANCISCO, WE WERE ALWAYS INVITED FOR DINNER AT OUR AUNTIES' HOME NEAR GEARY.

ALL I KNEW WAS THAT MY AUNTIES MADE THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE FILIPINO MEALS, AND THEY HAD A DOG NAMED CUGAT, NAMED AFTER THE BIG BAND LEADER.



WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THEIR HOME WAS A HUB FOR MANY RELATIVES JUST ARRIVING FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

MANY FILIPINOS CREATED INFORMAL SOCIAL CLUBS TO HELP RELATIVES AND FRIENDS GET ACCLIMATED TO LIFE IN AMERICA BOTH SOCIALLY AND FINANCIALLY.

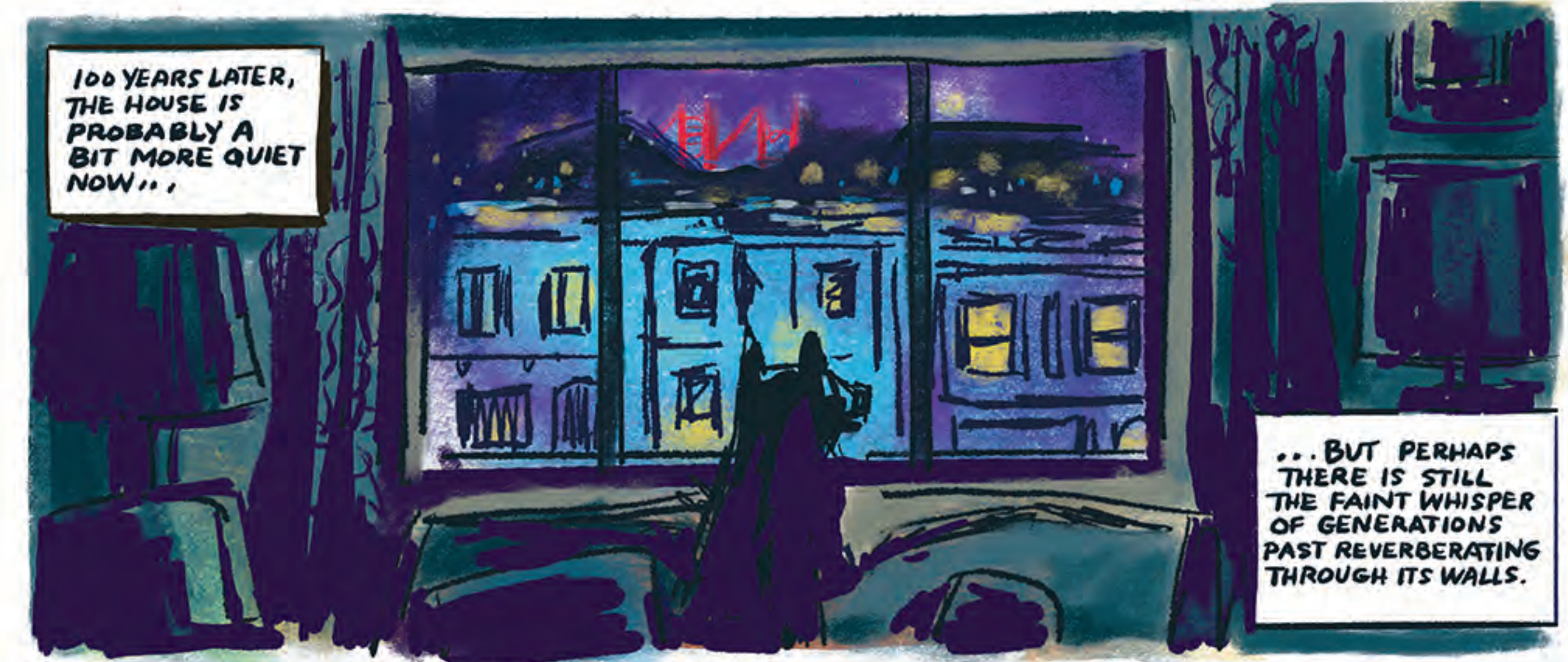
FOR OUR FAMILY, SUCH A SUPPORT NETWORK STARTED IN THE 1930'S DURING THE 2ND WAVE OF FILIPINO IMMIGRATION INTO THE U.S.



THIS CONTINUED INTO THE 1970'S DURING THE FOURTH WAVE WHICH INCLUDED MY PARENTS. THEY CREDIT MY AUNTIES FOR MAKING THEIR BEGINNINGS IN THE BAY AREA LESS LONELY AND INTIMIDATING.

MANY GAMES OF MAH JONGG WERE PLAYED.

AND MANY DINNERS WERE HAD FOR YEARS TO COME.



100 YEARS LATER, THE HOUSE IS PROBABLY A BIT MORE QUIET NOW..

... BUT PERHAPS THERE IS STILL THE FAINT WHISPER OF GENERATIONS PAST REVERBERATING THROUGH ITS WALLS.

FINDING FILIPINO *in Yerba Buena*

EVERY YEAR, THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CONVERGES ON YERBA BUENA GARDENS FOR PISTAHAN TO CELEBRATE OUR CULTURE AND HISTORY. FILIPINO BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND FOOD VENDORS PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVITIES.

THE FIRST PISTAHAN WAS IN 1994.

COINCIDENTALLY, THAT WAS THE FIRST YEAR I ATTENDED PISTAHAN. I WAS FRESH OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND HAD JUST MOVED FROM A SUBURB IN PENNSYLVANIA.

IN FACT, IT WAS THE FIRST FILIPINO FESTIVAL I ATTENDED EVER IN MY LIFE.

IS THAT JOSE RIZAL!

THE SIMPLE ACT OF EATING FILIPINO FOOD OUTSIDE OF MY HOUSE OR COOKED BY SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MY RELATIVE WAS THRILLING!

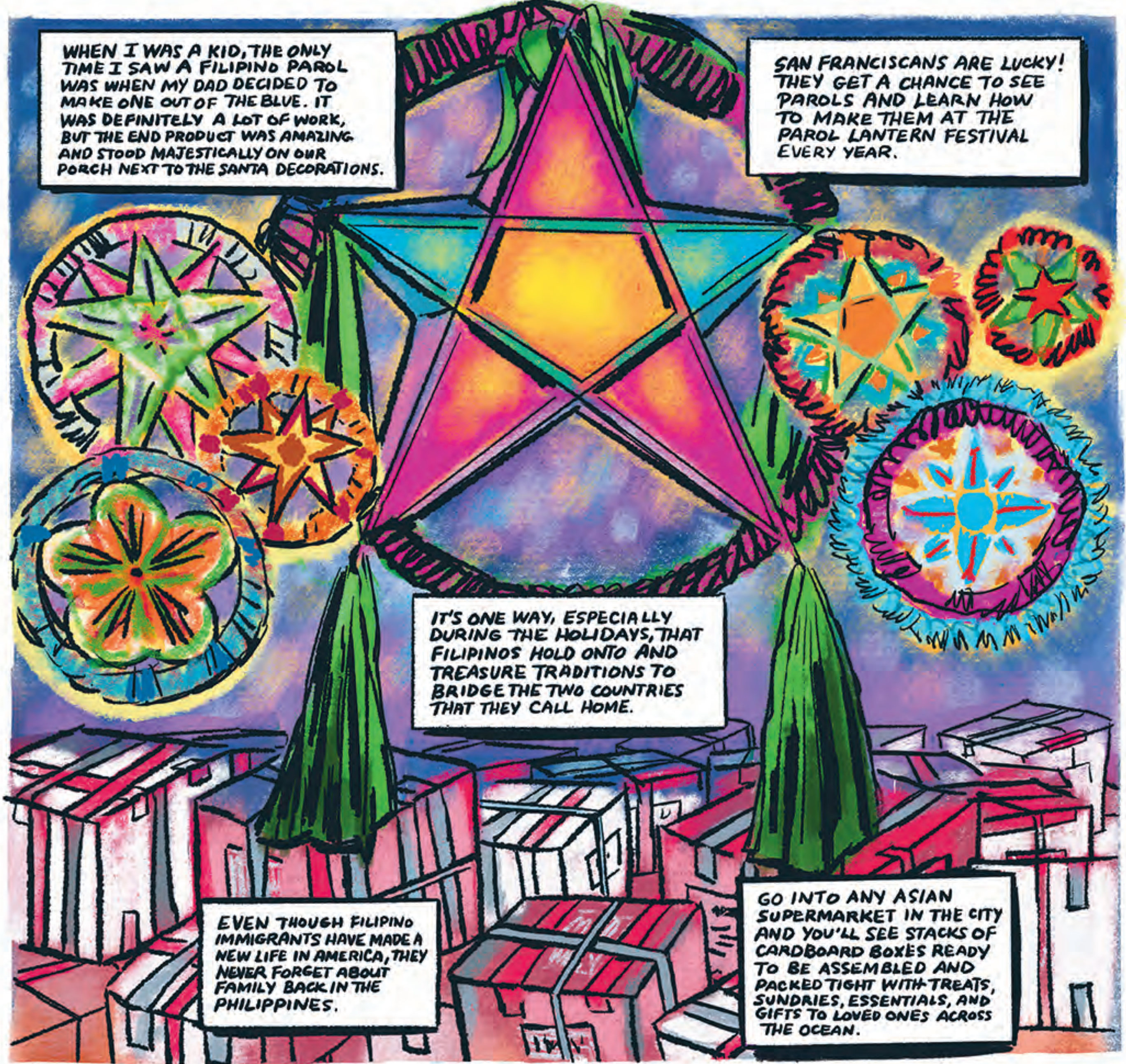
JUST TO SEE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FILIPINO IN THE SPOTLIGHT WAS/IS EMPOWERING!

TODAY IT IS NOT LOST ON ME THAT THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS WERE DISPLACED TO MAKE ROOM FOR THIS VENUE WHERE WE COME TO CELEBRATE OUR VERY EXISTENCE.

BUT FILIPINO FESTIVALS LIKE PISTAHAN REMIND US OF THE COMMUNITY THAT CAME BEFORE AND MOTIVATE US TO MAKE OUR PRESENCE FELT MORE THAN EVER.

FINDING FILIPINO

in the Fi Di



WHEN I WAS A KID, THE ONLY TIME I SAW A FILIPINO PAROL WAS WHEN MY DAD DECIDED TO MAKE ONE OUT OF THE BLUE. IT WAS DEFINITELY A LOT OF WORK, BUT THE END PRODUCT WAS AMAZING, AND STOOD MAJESTICALLY ON OUR PORCH NEXT TO THE SANTA DECORATIONS.

SAN FRANCISCANS ARE LUCKY! THEY GET A CHANCE TO SEE PAROLS AND LEARN HOW TO MAKE THEM AT THE PAROL LANTERN FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR.

IT'S ONE WAY, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS, THAT FILIPINOS HOLD ONTO AND TREASURE TRADITIONS TO BRIDGE THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT THEY CALL HOME.

EVEN THOUGH FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS HAVE MADE A NEW LIFE IN AMERICA, THEY NEVER FORGET ABOUT FAMILY BACK IN THE PHILIPPINES.

GO INTO ANY ASIAN SUPERMARKET IN THE CITY AND YOU'LL SEE STACKS OF CARDBOARD BOXES READY TO BE ASSEMBLED AND PACKED TIGHT WITH TREATS, SUNDRIES, ESSENTIALS, AND GIFTS TO LOVED ONES ACROSS THE OCEAN.



THIS REMINDS ME OF MY DAD'S PROCESS FOR PACKING BALIKBAYAN BOXES FOR OUR COUSINS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Hurry! Tell me what the scale says!



AND THEN I THINK ABOUT THE TIMES I'D MEET MY DAD AND MOM FOR LUNCH AT THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD COURT ON BUSH STREET.

Hi Bub!



THERE WAS A FILIPINO FOOD STAND AND OF COURSE THEY HAD THE MOST AMAZING CHICKEN ADOBO.

RICE 2 | 510G 8.99 | SODA 2

Kamusta ang pamilya, Ate?

Pareho pa rin.



MY DAD WOULD ALWAYS STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH THE COOK / OWNER, AS IF THEY WERE COUSINS TOO.

Parang Pinas.

Sa muli!

I REALIZE THAT HOME IS WHERE YOU MAKE IT, AND AS LONG AS FILIPINOS NURTURE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THIS CITY THEN THE FEELING OF HOME WILL NEVER BE FAR AWAY.