

nuptial bed, while the displaced couple sleeps on the floor. Small-talk tends to get so intimate so quickly that many westerners recoil. "The strongest social urge of the Filipino is to connect, to become one with people," says Mr de Leon. As a result, he believes, there is much less loneliness among them.

It is a tall thesis, so *The Economist* set out to corroborate it in and around Statue Square on Sundays. At that time the square turns, in effect, into a map of the Philippine archipelago. The picnickers nearest to the statue itself, for instance, speak mostly Ilocano, a dialect from northern Luzon. In the shade under the Number 13 bus stop (the road is off-limits to vehicles on Sundays) one hears more Ilonggo, spoken on Panay island. Closer to City Hall, the most common dialect is Cebuano, from Cebu. Hong Kong's Filipinas, in other words, replicate their village communities, and these surrogate families form a first circle of shared being. Indeed, some of the new arrivals in Hong Kong already have aunts, nieces, former students, teachers, or neighbours who are there, and gossip from home spreads like wildfire.

What is most striking about Statue Square, however, is that the sharing is in no way confined to any dialect group. Filipinas who are total strangers move from one group to another—always welcomed, never rejected, never awkward. Indeed, even Indonesian maids (after Filipinas, the largest group of amahs), and Chinese or foreign passers-by who linger for even a moment are likely to be invited to share the snacks.

The same sense of light-hearted intimacy extends to religion. Father Lim, for instance, is a Filipino priest in Hong Kong. Judging by the way his mobile phone rings almost constantly with amahs who want to talk about their straying husbands at home, he is also every amah's best friend. He is just as informal during his Sunday service in Tagalog at St Joseph's Church on Garden Road. This event is, by turns, stand-up comedy, rock concert and group therapy. And it is packed. For most of the hour, Father Lim squeezes through his flock with a microphone. "Are you happy?" he asks the congregation. A hand snatches the mike from him. "Yes, because I love God." Amid wild applause, the mike finds its way to another amah. "I'm so happy because I got my HK\$3,670 this month [\$470, the amahs' statutory wage]. But my employer was expecting a million and didn't get it. Now he's miserable." The others hoot with laughter.

The Filipinas, says Father Lim, have only one day a week of freedom (less, actually, as most employers impose curfews around dusk), so they "maximise it by liberating the Filipino spirit". That spirit includes communing with God. Some 97% of Filipinos believe in God, and 65%, according to a survey, feel "extremely close" to him. This is more than double the percentage of the two runners-up in the survey, America and Israel. This intimate approach to faith, thinks Father Lim, is one reason why there is virtually no drug abuse, suicide or depression among the amahs—problems that are growing among the Chinese.

THE LIFELINE TO HOME

There is, however, an even more concrete expression of *kapwa*. Quite simply, it is the reason why the Filipinas are where they are in the first place: to provide for loved ones at home. Most spend very little of their monthly HK\$3,670 on themselves. Instead, they take it to WorldWide House, a shopping mall and office complex near Statue Square. On Sundays the mall becomes a Philippine market, packed with amahs buying T-shirts,

toys and other articles for their siblings and children, and remitting their wages. More than their wages, in fact: many amahs borrow to send home more, often with ruinous financial consequences.

Father Lim tells a story. An eminent Filipino died while abroad, and it was decided that local compatriots should bid the coffin adieu before its journey home. So amahs showed up to file past it. When the coffin arrived in the Philippines and was re-opened, the corpse was covered from head to toe with padded bras, platform shoes, Nike trainers, and the like, all neatly tagged with the correct addresses.

It is their role as a lifeline for the folks at home that has earned the OFWs their Tagalog nickname, *bayani*. By itself, *bayani* means heroine, and this is how many amahs see themselves. Another form of the word, *bayanihan*, used to describe the traditional way of moving house in the Philippines. All the villagers would get together, pick up the hut and carry it to its new site. *Bayanihan* was a heroic, communal—in other words, shared—effort.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that *Bayanihan House* is the name the amahs have given to a building in Hong Kong that a trust has made available to them for birthday parties, hairstyling classes, beauty pageants and the like. One recent Sunday, during a pageant, one of the contestants for beauty queen was asked how she overcame homesickness, and why she thought the people back home considered her a hero. She looked down into her audience of amahs. "We're heroes because we sacrifice for the ones we love. And homesickness is just a part of it. But we deal with it because we're together." The room erupted with applause and agreement.

"Nowadays, *bayanihan* really means togetherness," says Mr de Leon, and "togetherness is happiness". It might sound too obvious, almost banal, to point out—had not so many people across the world forgotten it.

IN HONOR OF THE FIREFIGHTING VESSEL "JOHN J. HARVEY"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to *John J. Harvey*, the oldest and, now, most famous firefighting vessel on the Hudson River. On September 11, 2001, the crew of *John J. Harvey* demonstrated exceeding valor in aiding the rescue efforts of the New York City Fire Department.

John J. Harvey was built seventy years ago in order to update and improve the New York City Fire Department's aging fleet of steam-powered fireboats. The boat was the first vessel of its kind with internal combustion engines, a feature that gave *John J. Harvey* the capacity to pump 18,000 gallons of water a minute—twenty fire engines' worth—in streams up to twenty-five stories high.

John J. Harvey served in New York Harbor until 1995, when it was taken out of service for budgetary reasons. During her years of outstanding service, she participated in some of the most memorable fire rescue missions in New York Harbor. She fought the inferno that

destroyed the ocean liner *Normandie* and doused the flames on a sinking munitions boat. As part of the annual Fourth of July celebration, *John J. Harvey* shoots gushing streams of water high into the sky, forming an arc through which passing ships can speed. As a result of her past deeds, she was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

Prior to the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, *John J. Harvey* had been operated by her owners as a working fireboat museum giving free trips and educational tours up and down the Hudson River and at Pier 63 Maritime. As news of the disaster at the World Trade Center spread, the crew of *John J. Harvey* began racing towards Pier 63 Maritime from all parts of New York. They recognized that the fireboat was uniquely suited to provide invaluable help to the FDNY and NYPD at this time of crisis.

Once it arrived at the scene of the attack, *John J. Harvey* immediately began ferrying ash-caked survivors away from the collapsed buildings. A member of the crew later recalled how roughly 150 people hurled themselves over the gunwales, some leaving their shoes behind, in order to escape. As *John J. Harvey* was rescuing these people, a call came in from the Fire Department: They desperately needed water pressure.

Upon hearing this request, the crew dropped off the survivors in safety at pier 40 and rushed *John J. Harvey* to the sea wall at the World Financial Center. As they started to rev up the water pumps on the boat, the crew recognized that they had a serious problem. *Harvey's* 3-inch manifold valves, designed for providing water of a different diameter to the modern 2½ inch hose being used by FDNY. Nobody had any adapters. Tim Ivory, the boat's chief engineer, was under intense pressure knowing that many lives were dependant on *Harvey* to provide water quickly. He remembered that some of the water guns, designed for shooting water into the air, had nozzles that were 2½ inches in diameter. He cleverly improvised by taking a sledgehammer and jamming soda bottles and wood into the nozzles, so as to redirect the water into the hoses from the guns.

John J. Harvey spend the next 80 hours pumping water to firefighters working in the wreckage. Since all of the fire hydrants west of the disaster site were not operational, *John J. Harvey*, along with the city's two remaining large fireboats, *Fire-Fighter* and *McKean*, provided much of the necessary water to fight the fires that continued to burn at the site of the World Trade Center.

I particularly want to recognize the brave crew members of *John J. Harvey*. On the day of the attack, the following people rushed to the rescue: Chase B. Welles (who quickly recognized the need to be of service), Huntley Gill (who piloted the boat on 9/11), Tim Ivory (whose ingenuity saved the day), Tomas J. Cavallaro (who worked tirelessly to supply the crew) and Andrew Furber (Assistant Engineer, who helped rescue workers extract bodies and clear debris as a welder). Later that day they were joined by John Doswell, Jean Preece and Pamela Hepburn who helped rescue workers. The following morning Captain Robert Lenney (who spent 16 years as pilot of

John J. Harvey when it served the FDNY and returned to service to help fight the fires at the World Trade Center for days on end) and Jessica DuLong (Assistant Engineer, who ensured constant smooth running of the engines) lent their valuable assistance to the effort. Throughout the 4 days, they were supported by Darren Vigilant of tugboat *Bertha*, (who ferried supplies from Pier 63 Maritime) and by John Kreyve and his team at Pier 63 Maritime (who provided an unending supply of provisions).

John J. Harvey is once again docked at Pier 63 Maritime where visitors to New York can learn more about his heroic tale of a once scrap yard-destined firefighting vessel that came back to help save New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute the firefighting vessel *John J. Harvey* and her crew. May they be forever remembered for their courageous efforts on September 11, 2001.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE
KOTCHNIK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and contributions of one of my constituents, Mr. George Kotchnik. Mr. Kotchnik retired from the city of San Gabriel's Parks and Recreation Department on December 31, 2001.

A life long resident of the San Gabriel Valley, Mr. Kotchnik is a true local hero who deserves our respect and commendation. His work with the city's Parks and Recreation Department included 32 years as director, during which he played an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Under Mr. Kotchnik's leadership, the city of San Gabriel's parks and public facilities improved significantly. One example is the Smith Park expansion. Smith Park has been expanded to twice its size, creating more green space for residents of all ages to enjoy. Smith Park's design incorporated certain architectural features that paid tribute to the Gabriellino-Tongva Indians, the original inhabitants of this region.

The Park's expansion was such a success, it garnered the California Parks and Recreation Society's 2001 Award of Excellence for park design. Mr. Kotchnik and the San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department have also won the Gold Shield Award for outstanding achievement on two occasions from the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation.

Under his leadership, the parks and recreation department renovated and expanded the city's Adult Recreation Center, collaborated with local high schools to add park facilities at school districts, and recently began development of a skate park at a San Gabriel high school.

After 40 years of service, Mr. Kotchnik retired at the end of 2001, but his contributions will not be forgotten. He has left an enduring impression on the city of San Gabriel and its residents. I am proud to recognize Mr. George

Kotchnik's accomplishments and wish him much happiness in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ADELA GONZMART

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Adela Gonzmart, the matriarch of Ybor City's famed Columbia Restaurant, who will long be remembered across the State of Florida and the nation for her compassion for others and her efforts to preserve the vibrant culture of Tampa and Ybor City.

As a child prodigy on the piano, Adela nurtured her talent and soon became a concert pianist, traveling with her husband across the world to share their music. In 1953, the Gonzmarts returned to Tampa and soon took over operation of Adela's father's restaurant, the Columbia.

The Gonzmarts turned the Columbia Restaurant into a successful enterprise and used the family business as a means to contribute to the Ybor community. Adela and her husband hosted countless charity fundraisers at the Columbia and served as patrons for the Tampa art community. Adela helped form the Tampa Symphony Orchestra, now the Florida Symphony Orchestra, and organized the Ballet Folklórico of Ybor City, a dance company inspired by Ybor's Cuban, Spanish and Italian culture.

However, Adela was best known for her enormous heart. Adela never met a stranger and anyone who stepped foot into her restaurant could not help but feel like family. She loved sharing stories of her family and their Spanish and Cuban heritage. Adela's devotion to her community, her two sons and, her eight grandchildren is an inspiration to us all.

Monsignor Lawrence Higgins, who presided over Adela's funeral, described her as "the queen of Ybor City and all the town." I can think of no better tribute. Tampa has truly lost a piece of its rich history in the passing of Adela Gonzmart.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to Adela's family. Adela was, and will continue to be, larger than life to all of us who knew her, deeply cared for her, and respected her. Thankfully, her legacy will flourish with her sons, Richard and Casey, and their families as they build upon their proud family tradition of operating the Columbia Restaurant and serving our community and State in countless ways.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of official business for my District (27th Congressional District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall votes 1-5. If I had been present for these

votes, I would have voted as indicated: Rollcall No. 1, present; rollcall 2, yea; rollcall 3, yea; rollcall 4, yea; and rollcall 5, yea.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SYDNEY
CHARLES LOCKWOOD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood of the Passaic Public Schools, who was recognized on Friday, October 26, 2001 for his lifelong dedication to education.

As a former Passaic County educator, I take particular pride in exercising my ability to honor Mr. Lockwood in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth. He is more than deserving as he has a long history of caring, generosity, and commitment to his noble profession.

From the beginning of his 40-year career in education, which began as an undergraduate at Montclair State University, Sydney Lockwood has been a leader. A member of Montclair State's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the National Honor Society for Education, Sydney was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

After receiving his Master's Degree from Montclair State in 1965, Sydney moved on to Columbia University's prestigious Teacher's College to pursue his post-graduate education. Immediately playing integral roles in Columbia's pivotal research projects, Sydney Lockwood participated in the Columbia University Curriculum Life Skills Project and served as a member of Columbia University's Task Force that evaluated the failing Washington, DC school system.

The City of Passaic first saw Sydney's dedication to education and capacity for leadership while he served as an English and Social Studies teacher at Lincoln Middle School. He quickly was promoted to Head Teacher at Pulaski School No. 8 and then to Principal of Roosevelt School No. 10 from 1974 to 1995. Sydney's final post with the Passaic Public Schools was as Principal of School No. 2 from 1995 until June of 2001.

By devoting over forty years of his life, the last twenty-seven as a principal, to the children of the City of Passaic, Sydney Lockwood has done so much for so many. While his retirement has caused great sadness in the Passaic Public Schools, it also has been a time for celebration, as all those touched by Sydney have honored his career of public service.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Sydney Lockwood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Passaic Public Schools, the City of Passaic, Sydney's family and friends, all the students who have been touched by Sydney over his career both inside and outside of the classroom, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood.