

September 2008

ALIBATA

Newsletter of the CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS



It has been a long while since the editors have thought of giving the CSFA Newsletter a name. Several words were presented and considered but we finally decided to call it ALIBATA.

Alibata is an ancient writing system that was used in what is now the Philippines. Although the colonizers of the country have tried to extinguish its use, variants of it are still seen in parts of Mindoro and Palawan. Nowadays, Filipinos around the world are searching for and rediscovering their roots and identities and some, especially those belonging to the younger generations, are learning to use this method of writing as a form of expressing themselves.

In the same way, the ALIBATA is one medium used by CSFA to achieve efforts of promoting Filipino cultural identity, encouraging the youth to appreciate their ancestry and cultivating Filipino heritage here in the Twin Cities.

Mabuhay ang Pilipino! (above translation)

EDITORIAL STAFF

Ligaya Carlos Mar Alojado

For your comments and suggestions, to subscribe/unsubscribe or to receive the e-version instead, send us a message at info@csfamn.org or at PO Box 2773, St. Paul, MN 55102.

This newsletter can also be found in www.csfamn.org.

Rivera Elected for Second Term

By Mar Alojado

Traditionally in CSFA elections, officers are usually re-elected for another year after serving a one-year term. As some officers pulled out for personal reasons, their positions were up for grabs. The annual CSFA election took place at Bethany Baptist Church in Roseville on Friday evening of September 5, 2008. There were 43 registrants/members who came to vote.

Current and new members, guests, and their families attended the annual potluck meeting/election. A contingent of the Philippine Students Association in MN came to show support for this activity. The incumbent President Jose Rivera conducted the meeting with the agenda flashed from an overhead projector. Between the items of discussion, the nominations, secret voting, and counting of ballots were carried out. Linda Davis, the perennial Nomination Committee head, carried out the proceedings with the help of Mar Alojado, Ferdie Oconer and Lynn Winick.

The officers elected by votes of confidence were Jose Rivera reelected for President, outgoing PRO Ligaya Carlos for Vice-president (in absentia), Helen Hamman re-elected for Auditor and outgoing member of board Lourdes Rivera, for PRO. Two posts were contested by secret balloting. Sandy Rodriguez prevailed as Secretary while Willen Korkowski was elected Treasurer.

There were eight nominees for Board of Directors. They were asked to give introductory speeches before the voting started. Unlike the rest, the counting of ballots for the Board was done in the open for everybody to see how their candidates were doing. Those elected were Jean Cruz (PSA President), Gary Paz, Glen King, and Ferdie Oconer. Gary and Glen are already ex-Officio members that previously served as Presidents. They will serve for two years except for the four incumbents, namely, Tonette Burkhart, Fe Castillejos, Lina Jonson and Pearl Malit, who have a year left.

The rest of the agenda was discussed, and announcements made before the meeting was adjourned. Pamana VIII in September 2009 is the biggest project that this new set of officers will be challenged with!

Campout 2008

By Jose Rivera

This year's Campout started with a 1pm Friday tee time at the Baker Park National Golf Course. Mar Alojado and 8 other golfers managed to squeeze in a round of golf at this very difficult course.

There were plenty of early campers this year as the group site was almost full by Friday evening. One of the highlights of this year's campout was the volleyball tournament. The Halo-Halo's (led by Tisha Alojado), the Stereotypical Asians (led by Jasper Jonson) the Fab-Five (led by James Rothmund) and the SupaCrew (led by Victoria Weber) were all vying for the first ever CSFA championship.

Anxious fans watched a thrilling and hard fought final between the Stereotypical Asians and the Halo-Halo's. The Asians came out on top, thanks to the MVP play of Eddie Jonson, who was inspired by the constant heckling from a Halo-Halo fan. The Campout festivities began Saturday afternoon with the Children's games such as tug-o-war, musical chairs, the

longest line and pabitin. There were dozens of prizes given out to all participants. For the adults, the Newspaper Dance brought out some precarious and funny moments, as couples Ray and Rachel Ramirez and Doug and Mae Lodermeier were able to successfully balance on a 4 x 4 inch newspaper.

Next up was the Deal or No Deal game show, hosted by Lourdes Rivera and Lorna Faustino. There were no grand prizewinners this year, but contestants Mary Rose Weber and Sarah Ager did manage to bring home a few dollars. Lynn Winick coordinated the dinner activity as everyone

enjoyed the tasty lechon, a variety of potluck dishes, and sweet corn courtesy of Jannie Noren. Father Ray Canete, who was on a missionary visit from Olongapo, Philippines, celebrated the 7 PM mass. The evening ended with a Bingo Marathon courtesy of Lorna Faustino and host Lydia De



Guzman. While Bingo players were glued to their boards, others enjoyed an opera concert on the big screen courtesy of Ed Faustino and his sound system. Sunday morning, everyone was surprised by a visit by Santa Claus.... I mean Randy Tigie,

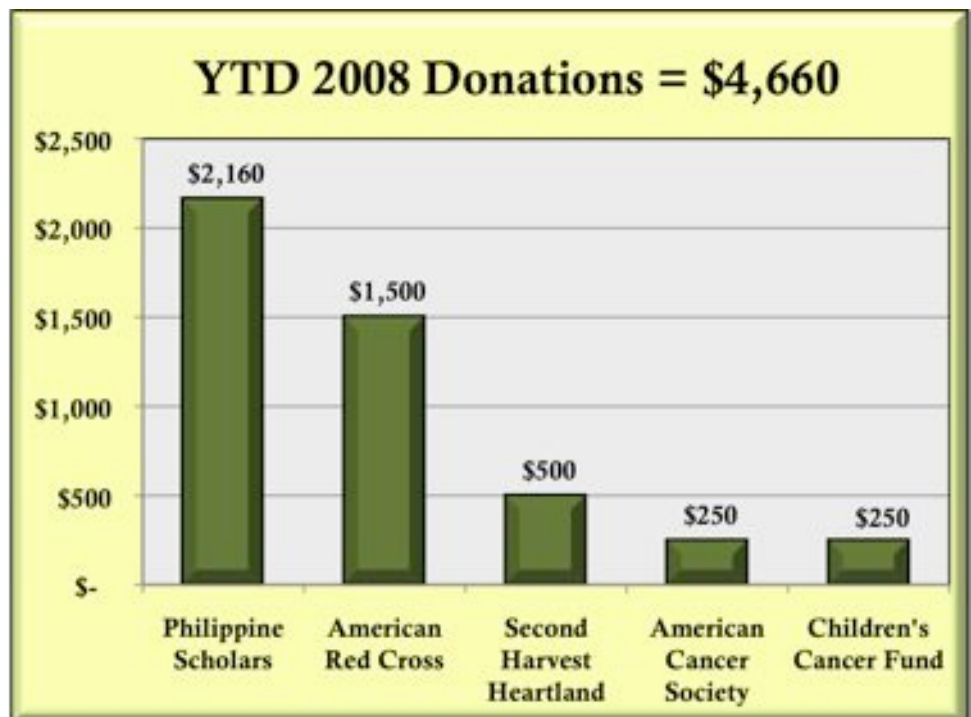
who treated the campers with his homemade blueberry pancake special. Special thanks to all the volunteers who made this event happen and to all the campers and picnickers who attended. This year's Campout was a huge success as we had close to 100 people attended and about 15 tents pitched. Special thanks to Babie Schneider and Ferdie Oconer for your tremendous help. See you again next year!



Charitable Acts

By Helen Hamman

CSFA is blessed with a rich tradition of charitable giving for social services, education and the arts. My hope is that this information will encourage more support for the philanthropic legacy that has made CSFA arguably the most generous Filipino-American non-profit organization in Minnesota. In fact, in the last 3 years alone, CSFA has given over \$8,000 to the Philippine disaster victims through the American Red Cross, \$6,000 to the Philippine Scholars, over \$4,000 to the Philippine Center of Minnesota and \$7,000 to other worthy charities. None of these would have been possible without your efforts and sense of volunteerism.



Be Part of Something Big

By Nina Jonson

PAMANA VIII is coming in September 2009, and we want you to be involved! PAMANA is a major theatrical production presented by the Cultural Society of Filipino Americans. This celebrates the Filipino culture and heritage through performance and dance. PAMANA VII, presented at the Anne Simley Auditorium of Hamline University in September 2006 involved over 100 individuals, and we are looking for that number or more for PAMANA VIII. All ages from 5 to 105 are welcome, and no matter what your interests or time constraints are, we have a job for you! We need everyone from dancers, costume sewers and fundraisers, to food preparers, videographers and prop creators! The largest time commitment would be as a dancer. The CSFA Dance Troupe holds practices every Thursday night all year, and each week, dancers will learn some of the over 40 dances that will be presented for PAMANA VIII. You do not have to be a trained dancer to join the Dance Troupe; we are simply looking for committed individuals who are interested in learning more about the Filipino heritage, as well as improving their dance skills. Dancers will be taught fundamental steps vital in Filipino folk dancing, as well as full routines. We are always in special need of younger dancers, especially male dancers. Certain dances involve only men, and there are many Filipino dances that rely on partnering. We would love any and all interested dancers to contact Tonette Burkhart at 952-994-6015 or attend a Thursday night dance practice, held from 7 to 9 PM at St. John's Church (977 5th St. E, St. Paul, MN 55106-visit

Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans PAMANA VIII SEPTEMBER 2009



CELEBRATING THE FILIPINO HERITAGE

For more information, visit www.csfamn.org or contact Jose Rivera at 651-578-0540, Glen King at 763-571-7696 or Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com.

www.csfamn.org for a map and further information). In addition to the large cast of dancers that this event will require, we are searching for other members of the Filipino community to assist us with the other aspects of mounting such a large-scale production. Feeding and costuming 50 plus dancers, as well as the many other behind-the-scenes tasks require the help and support of many

individuals. If you have any skills that may be of use to this event, or are just interested in learning more about how you can get involved, come to the PAMANA orientation on October 2, Thursday, 7 PM at St. John's Church. For details, contact Jose Rivera at 651-578-0540, Glen King at 763-571-7696 or Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com. Help us create another magical and meaningful PAMANA!

Pinoy Camp for Kids on its Third Year *By Ligaya Carlos*

Last July 12 and 13, twenty-four children participated in CSFA's third annual Philippine Children's Camp. Held this year at the Marshview campsite in Baker Park Reserve, Medina, the kids once again spent the weekend learning and playing everything Filipino. With the purpose of having the children discover more about the Philippines and the culture, the camp activities were designed to be both educational and fun. History, language and geography were tackled. Arts and crafts time included making the sipa, the yoyo, group flag, caps and the Philippine flag and the puppet show featured a story from the islands. The kids enjoyed playing patintero and sipa and this year, basic steps of the tinikling were taught. Despite their feet getting caught between the bamboo poles and some even falling on their bums, the campers persevered to master this popular Filipino dance.

This year, old friendships were rekindled and new ones were made. The kids (especially those turning 13 years old next year) who the volunteers have grown fond of, will be missed.

The organizers once again extend heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers for sharing their time and talent with the kids and to the parents for allowing their kids to spend the weekend with CSFA. CSFA believes in the value of this activity for the youth. Kitakits next year!



CSFA'S RUN FOR GOLD FOLDS *By Mar Alojado*

For the last three years, CSFA has fielded a team at the FMA Basketball Invitational. On June 21 to 22, 2008 at the Minneapolis Sports Center (YWCA), the team was able to move on to the next day's competition by the point-spread system.

However, it later succumbed to better-prepared and organized teams. The Wrecking Crew coached by Allan Bungue dribbled their way to the championship.

Raoul Alojado, Tom Burkhart, Nestor Cruspero, Chris Haffely, Sooch Koam, Jose Rivera (Coach), Ed Santos (Captain), Jonj Sembrano, Francisco and Brad Westerburg composed the ten man contingent. The absence of JR Castillejos and Eddie Santos was greatly felt.

Despite the loss, the event was very entertaining and CSFA had a part in it! The opening ceremonies featured Mar Alojado (Ex-officio) who sang. Lupang Hinirang. Ligaya Carlos (PRO) set up promotional materials at the organization/business section. During halftime of the championship, the Dance Troupe delighted the crowd with its folk dances. Wives, families, and friends of the CSFA players cheered and also jeered at the opposing teams and enjoyed the food and drinks paid for by CSFA.

The search for the CSFA dream team is on!



Filipino Café, Bazaar & Dances *By Ligaya Carlos*

From May 1 to 4, 2008, CSFA once again took charge of the Filipino Café and bazaar during the Festival of Nations held at the Rivercentre in St. Paul. The Café entailed several hours of rigorous preparation in order to serve delectable and safe Filipino dishes during this event. As always, the Filipino Café and the colorful bazaar were very popular and well attended. The CSFA Dance Troupe, once again, participated in the cultural program of the Festival of Nations. The audience was impressed with the precise movements of the adult members of the Dance Troupe performing a variation of the Banga Salidsid. This performance can be viewed on youtube. On the other hand, the younger members thrilled the crowd with their spectacular and exhilarating rendition of the Tinikling.

To Fe Castillejos, CSFA chair for this event, CSFA members, friends and families involved in the Filipino Café, the bazaar and the cultural program, kudos for making this another fruitful and worthwhile CSFA activity.





2008 Schedule & Venue of Meetings

October 10, Membership Rivera's (Woodbury)

November 7, Planning Burkhardt's (Minneapolis)

Visit www.csfamn.org for further information.

CONGRATULATIONS, RENEE!

We are so proud of your achievements!

WE LOVE YOU!

Mom, Dad, Cliff & Lola Berta

Renee Schneider
2008 Luther Collage Graduate
Cum Laude, Political Science
Minor in Spanish
Sigma Delta Pi
(Spanish National Honor Society)



Upcoming CSFA Events

Cultural Generation Gap Workshop

Sept 27, Parish of St. Joseph 8701 36th Avenue North New Hope, MN

CSFA Induction Ball

Oct 18, Zuhrah Shrine Center, Minneapolis

Pasko Sa Nasyon

Dec 13, Guardian Angels Church, Woodbury

Caroling

November and December

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer in any of these events, please visit www.csfamn.org or send a message to info@csfamn.org.

BE A CSFA MEMBER!

RENEW your membership!

VOLUNTEER! DONATE!

Fill out form below, clip and mail.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

- ☐ New
☐ Renewal
☐ Volunteer only

- ☐ Individual, \$15
☐ Family, \$50
☐ Donation: \$ _____

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

EMAIL: _____

INTERESTED IN:

- ☐ CHRISTMAS CAROLING
☐ KITCHEN PREPARATION
☐ FOLK DANCING
☐ NEWSLETTER
☐ WEBSITE DESIGNING
☐ CHILDREN'S CAMP
☐ PHILIPPINE DAY
☐ FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
☐ PASKO SA NAYON
☐ WORKSHOPS
☐ OTHERS: _____

Please make check payable to CSFA.

Mail completed form and check to
CSFA (Membership/Volunteer)

PO BOX 2773

St. Paul, MN 55102



International School of MN, May 2008



Dragon Festival, July 2008



*Blaine World Festival
September 2008*



Phil Independence Day, June 2008



Samahang Pag-Asa, Anoka, August 08



Philippine Day, March 2008

CSFA Dance Troupe

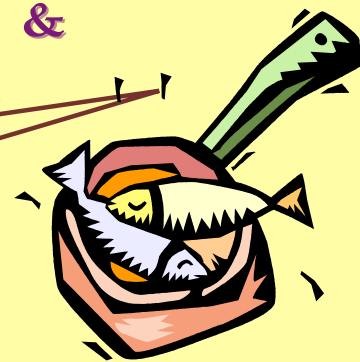
"Promoting Filipino culture in Minnesota"

*Be involved. Share your time and talent.
Meet friends. Learn a new dance and perform in
different exciting events.*

*Drop by Thursday dance practices from 7 to 9 PM at St.
John Church 977 5th St E in St. Paul. For more information,
contact Tonette Burkhart at 952-994-6015, Glen King at 763-
571-7696, Therese Peterson at ocone001@umn.edu or
Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com.*

Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans & Filipino American Women's Network

What's Cooking, Honey?



BRIDGING THE CULTURAL AND GENERATIONAL GAP III

**September 27, 2008, Saturday, St. Joseph's Parish, 8701 36 th Ave N. New Hope, MN
55427. For details, contact Mar Alojado at 651-578-8431, Elsa Batista at 612-871-4205,
Jose Rivera at 651-578-0540 or Glen King at 763-571-7696.**