

# ALIBATA

Newsletter of the CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS

## Farewell to a Founding Member and Friend

After a miraculous ten-year battle with cancer, Estrella "Trell" Fuentes Rosso passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at home on February 14, 2009. She is survived by her loving husband of forty years, Steve, son, James and daughter, Stephanie.

Since the inception of CSFA in the 70's, Trell has maintained a dynamic involvement in the organization's activities. She participated in PAMANA's, CSFA Dance Troupe, Festival of Nations and the Filipino Café, Philippine Day, Pasko sa Nasyon, annual caroling and the Philippine Children's Camp. She is fondly remembered for her generosity, kindness, infectious laughter, constant optimism and upbeat attitude. And, her fruit salad remains unsurpassed.

To the "bright star", CSFA is eternally grateful to you! You will be missed!

## Eulogy by Lynn Winick

We have casual friends, good friends and best friends. We even have a core of friends to whom Trell and I belong, the 7stars. But there is a friend who is more than others, a friend we especially bond with, a confidant, one who understands your innermost feelings, and one who practically thinks and acts the way you do. That is who Trell is to me. We met each other in the 70's when we were just new in the US. We connected with each other due to a similarity, being married to ex-Peace Corps Volunteers. There were parallel events in our lives that made us closer to each other.

Trell is the most caring person I know. It was very evident in the concern and care she extended to her brothers and sisters and their families. She wanted to share her good fortune and she was most fortunate that she could bring to this country a niece (Pinggy) and a nephew (Butch) whom she assisted in their schooling. Then, ultimately, she was able to petition her brothers and sisters and still extended her care for them. Her mantra "kawawa naman sila" (pity them) did not only extend to her relatives but to others.

Trell is a very sympathetic and helping person. Her kindness was such that she did not know how to say no. As an active member of the Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans (she and Steve were among the charter members), she would be given an assignment and responsibility that others would turn down which she would readily accept. Even when she was already getting sicker and could not do

it herself, she still carried her obligations, serving the Filipino community, her parish and the Divine Mercy Messengers.

Trell is a fun and loving person. She was my "partner in crime". I taught her to play mahjong, which we played regularly for fun with the 7stars. I don't remember who influenced whom to go to the casinos, which we did to unwind. She would entertain us with jokes, but before she could finish the joke, she is already laughing so hard that we would be laughing with her even without the punch line.

Trell is the most religious person I know. She is the heart and soul of the Filipino Community Divine Mercy Messengers. We believe that her faith contributed to her miraculously surviving ten years of metastatic cancer. Her faith gave her strength and fortitude in enduring the pains. The darkest moments of my life were made brighter by a bright star "Estrella", the one who I turned to and talked to. She is a cherished star in the life of her bosom friend, her family and others.

I remember a saying the bishop of Urdaneta, Pangasinan quoted. "God gave us memories so that even in December (winter) there are roses." Our memories of Trell will always remain with us in our hearts. And, in another saying, "The fragrance of the rose remains in the hand of the giver"; dearest Trell, the fragrance of your good deed will always remain attached to your good name forever.

Thank you for the memories. You are truly my BFF. Till we meet again.

## Saying Good-bye to A Friend by Gina Schrader

*I just got back from my Philippine trip and I turned on my cell. I got two messages from Tessie. "I just want to update you on Trell".*

I have known Trell for over 30 years. I used to pick her up in the early 70's from her house in Penn Avenue and then we drove together to the dance practice at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul. We talked a lot about our new experiences coming to America. We talked as if we have known each other for so long. But that is because she is Trell who can make you feel like she was your friend for many years. She got married in the Philippines like I did; she married Steve, an American and I married Wilfried, a German. We felt we do have something in common on how our relatives accepted them as part of our Filipino families.

*I called Tessie and she said, "Trell's condition was not good, she is getting worse."*

Trell was so excited when Jimmy came and she invited everybody to welcome him. That's how Trell was. She opened her house to everybody for any type of occasion, baby shower, bridal shower, birthdays, Christmas and New Year celebrations and any time she found the opportunity to invite friends including when Stephanie, her second baby was baptized. Trell wanted people around even if it meant she would be staying in her kitchen all day to cook all her favorite dishes and her trademark fruit salad.

*I got another call from Tessie. She said, "Trell is not responding anymore".*

Trell had a big heart. She was very generous and caring not only to the people she knew but also to others whom she felt would need some attention. She was a giver. She made sure she extended her help to her family in the Philippines. We talked about how it was important for our relatives to come to America so they could at least

enjoy the comforts in life she and I were enjoying. She had Steve's support to take her nephew, niece, brothers and sisters to America. I did the same thing, I had my five brothers and sisters come, too.

*Tessie called again and told me that Steve did not want to accept guests anymore and would like to spend time alone with Trell*

Trell told me that she had cancer as if it was nothing serious. She continued to tell me how things were changing with her. But most of all she told me how she had given herself to God. Her strength was having faith in God and she believed that God had plans for her and that God will take her according to His will.

We moved to Las Vegas in October for good and Trell was sad to see me go. I called her before I left for the Philippines in early January. I knew she just got out of the hospital (because Tessie called and told me). I told her I would be visiting Minneapolis when I got back from my Philippine trip and that I booked my flight to visit on February 14 to February 22. I told her maybe we could spend a night at Mystic Lake, our place to wind down once in a while. She laughed and told me "we'll see". I told her I was sending her some flowers to brighten up her day. Like always, she would only said, "thanks, Gin". I could see her lovely smile.

*On February 14, the day I was leaving for Minneapolis, I called Tessie. She told me that Trell had passed that Saturday morning and she left me a message on my cell phone. My flight was 7:00 that evening. The week before I was leaving I was praying to God to let me see and talk to Trell before He took her. But God knows it would be easier for me to simply let go and say good-bye instead.*

*To Trell, one of the seven stars, thank you for all the wonderful memories, and most of all thank you for being a loving FRIEND.*

*Good-bye.*



## Fil-MN Community Warms Up to Bowling

By Nena Alojado

CSFA held its Annual Bowling Tournament on a mild Sunday afternoon in February 8, 2009. Regular and just-for-fun bowlers came to the Midway Pro Bowl on University Avenue to roll for the coveted titles. Registration started at noon, practice bowling began at 1 PM for 10 minutes, and the first game of three went on. This was an open league with no handicap where winners prevailed on their raw scores.

Seventy-one adults and children registered to join this event. There were several bowlers from the Filipino Bowling League who joined this tournament and a good number of CSFA members and their families came that day to compete and have fun.. Seventeen lanes were used to accommodate the bowlers with three to six bowlers in a lane. Even latecomers had a chance to play.

During the games, people partook of snacks brought by the organizers and volunteers. Everyone was treated with slices of decorated cake to congratulate our very own bowlers, Rick and Pearl (Malit) Cazcarro, for their impending parenthood. At the far end, the kids were giggling and laughing at their performances. Some of the adults were teasing each other and roaring for joy when strikes were rolled, splits spared, spares picked, or gutter balls thrown! A few were serious about their scores, comparing with others, hoping theirs were high enough to win the side bets.

After the first game, the play was temporarily suspended to honor the 2008 winners. Flashes of camera focused on the awarding of trophies and the winners. This year's winners are listed on the table. They will be recognized and awarded trophies at next year's tournament.



CSFA Family and Friends with Bowling Tournament committee chair, Nena Alojado at the Midway Pro Bowl last Feb 8, 2009.

Categories	High series	High Game
Men	Glen Urbi 594	Eddie Jonson 227
Women	Fe Castillejos 420	Merle Protacio 169
Men-Junior	Cliff Schneider 377	Tony Gomes 142
Women-Junior	Ariane Brion 377	Tisha Alojado 142
Kids	Jacinta Rivera 282	Josh Rivera 104

That afternoon, everyone had a good time with friends and families. New friendships were also forged and for most a new hobby was created. The author and her committee struck up a common interest in the Filipino community by sparing their time and energy in providing enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy the sport!

## Preparations for the Festival of Nations

From April 30 to May 3, 2009, CSFA will once again be representing the Philippines in Minnesota's largest annual multicultural event called the Festival of Nations. This will be held at the Rivercentre in downtown St. Paul.

Food preparations for the Filipino Café and dance rehearsals for the children and adult programs are on going and additional volunteers for any of these activities are most welcome. Please contact Fe Castillejos at 763-574-0973 or Remy Ingenhutt at 763-591-0877 if interested to help in the Filipino Café. For inquiries on the adult and the children's program, contact Gary Paz at 651-463-3381 or Tonette Burkhart at 952-994-6015. Adult members of the Dance Troupe will be performing on May 3, Sunday at 1PM while the children will be dancing on May 2, Saturday at 1:45PM.



Hardworking volunteers for the Filipino Café at St. Bonaventure Community Center in Bloomington last Feb 28, 2009.

## Kids Beat the Cold!

Sixteen kids aged six to twelve spent a weekend together at the Rivera's residence in Woodbury last February 20 and 21, 2009. They played games and watched a movie called "Bahay Kubo" before hitting the sack that Friday evening. On Saturday morning, they went to Afton Alps for snow tubing where they went down the hill multiple times.

The children bonded with each other and their chaperones and some didn't even want to go home when picked up. They hoped to spend the weekend together again which they could in summer during the Philippine Children's Camp.



**CSFA is now in FACEBOOK!**

**POST GREETINGS** to families and friends in the Alibata! Email your messages to [info@csfamn.org](mailto:info@csfamn.org).

From: Ligaya Carlos & Mar Alojado  
(Alibata Editors)



## New Dancers for CSFA Dance Troupe

By Gary Paz

The CSFA Dance Troupe has been fortunate to gain the interest of new dancers. They have stayed on for more than just one performance and painstakingly endured rigorous dance rehearsals every Thursday. They are Carla Murdoch (Cebu City), Jane Ungemach (Tudela, Misamis Occidental), Willen Korkowski (Makati City), Jennifer Balagot (Oakdale, Minnesota), Josephine Anderson (Pasig City) and son Justin, Malou Dobberstein (Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur), Christine McNally, Mae Lodermeier (Balagtas, Bulacan), Jeorgina Newman (San Carlos City, Negros Occidental), and Ricky Cazcarro (Davao City).

These new dancers joined at a time when there was a great need for new faces. They bring with them different degrees of passion for Philippine Folk Dances. They may have different reasons for joining but one thing is certain – they want to learn Philippine Folk dances.

With the new dancers are returning dancers like Rowena Carlson, siblings Raoul and Tisha Alojado, Maria Angela Ignacio, Jose Malinao, and Remy Ingenhutt. New dancers are still welcome to join the CSFA Dance Troupe most especially male dancers. Come and attend our weekly Thursday rehearsals from 7 to 9PM at St. John's Catholic Church in St. Paul. Visit [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org) for details.



Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans

## PAMANA VIII

SEPTEMBER 2009



CELEBRATING THE  
FILIPINO HERITAGE

For more information, visit [www.csfamn.org](http://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](mailto:st.ligaya@gmail.com).

## 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, \$5  
☐ Family, \$10  
☐ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTED IN:

- ☐ CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
☐ KITCHEN PREPARATION  
☐ FOLK DANCING  
☐ NEWSLETTER  
☐ WEBPAGE 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/Donation)

PO BOX 2773  
St. Paul, MN 55102

*CSFA Dance Troupe*  
"Promoting Filipino culture in Minnesota"

## **CSFA '09 Calendar of Events**

March 22      Philippine Day  
April 30-May 3      Festival of Nations  
July 10-12      Philippine Children's Camp  
August 7-9      Annual Campout and  
                         Volleyball Tournament  
September      PAMANA VIII  
October 17      Induction Dinner and Dance  
December 12      Pasko Sa Nasyon

\* Some dates are subject to change.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer in any of these events, please visit [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org) or send a message to [info@csfamn.org](mailto:info@csfamn.org).

## **2009 Monthly CSFA Meetings**

March 6      Alojado's (Woodbury)  
April 3      Korkowski's (Maple Grove)  
May 8      Paz's (Farmington)  
June 5      Peterson's (Burnsville)  
July 10      Santos' (Rosemount)  
August 7      Oconer's (St. Louis Park)  
September 4      Elections  
October 2      Rivera's (Woodbury)  
November 6      Burkhart's (Minneapolis)

Visit [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org) for more information.

# *Philippine Day '09*

*Proudly presented by the Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans*

***Sunday, March 22, 2009  
12 noon to 4 PM  
Landmark Center  
75 W Fifth St, St Paul, MN***

**Come and experience the culture, the food and the people of the Philippines right here in the Twin Cities.**

**Admission is free! For more details,  
contact Linda Davis at 651-770-2535 or go to  
[www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org).**