ALIBATA

Newsletter of the CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS

Enero/January 2011

www.csfamn.org www.facebook.com/csfamn

CSFA Officers 2010-11

The 39th Annual Induction of CSFA Officers Dinner and Dance was held last October 9, 2010 at the MSP Airport Hilton Hotel. Over 120 members, family and guests were in attendance to take part of this event. Philippine Consul General Leo Herrera-Lim of Chicago and his wife, Fidelis, were the guests of honor that evening. The program began with the singing of the Philippine National Anthem led by Marither Sangalang and the American National Anthem led by Tintin Espino. This was followed by a moving invocation delivered by Kemilyn Beyer. Jean Cruz and Arlene Sanchez, the masters of ceremonies, conducted the evening's repertoire with ease. The CSFA Dance Troupe did what it does best. The group performed a colorful Benguet Basket Dance and a lively Maria Clara number. Dinner was a sumptuous buffet, which consisted of a selection of beef tender tips in wild mushroom glaze, sauteed chicken in cherry cream sauce, chocolate mousse and cheesecake. After dinner, Consul General Herrera-Lim swore in President Ligaya Carlos, Vice President Tonette Burkhart, Secretary Jean Cruz, Treasurer Willen Korkowski, Auditor Helen Hamman, PRO Lourdes Rivera and members of the Board of Directors Nena Alojado, Rowena Carlson, Fe Castillejos, Carlo Cortez, Teresita Enanoza, Adelina Jonson, Cymbeline Leiviska, and Sandy Rodriguez (Chair of the Board).

Entertainment that evening was very enjoyable. Jea Espino sang "Valentine" while playing the guitar. Robert Mariano and Marither Sangalang performed OPM hits and a Visayan folk song while Rumel Panaligan accompanied them on the guitar. Winners of the 2010 CSFA Bowling Tournament, Pinoy Shots (CSFA Photo Contest) and the Annual Outdoor Volleyball Games were recognized and were handed their trophies. Shortly after, (*Continued on Page 6*)

CSFA Carolers Spread Holiday Cheer

The Grinch almost stole CSFA caroling! Main guitarist and choir director, Jun Luces, bowed out as accompanist due to shoulder surgery. Dante Canillas, the back-up guitarist, couldn't cover for him because of the same reason. Despite this unexpected situation, CSFA was fortunate to gather other talents to play the guitar for the carolers. Rumel Panaligan, Joey Espino and his two daughters, Jea and Tintin, Roger Ungemach, Victoria Weber and Cesar Castillejos picked up the slack and saved this annual holiday tradition of bringing joy and cheer to the homes of friends and family. Jun and Dante still joined the group as singers.

Persistent and resilient describe this group. Misleading GPS directions and the extreme cold did not deter the carolers. At the first outing, they went to the home of ex-officio Fil Asuncion who despite having failing health welcomed the carolers and enjoyed their songs. (*Continued on page 2*)

In this issue, the Alibata reviews significant CSFA events that transpired in the latter half of 2010. Included also are announcements of upcoming CSFA and Filipino Community events and activities. A list of future CSFA monthly meetings and a CSFA membership form are also found.

For this issue, the editors have deferred with printing the Alibata. However, if interested in getting hold of a printed copy, send us a message at *st.ligaya@gmail.com* or *maralojado@yahoo.com.*

Message from the President

Note: Below is the speech delivered by reelected CSFA President Ligaya Carlos during the 39th Induction of CSFA Officers Dinner and Dance at the MSP Airport Hilton Hotel.

Honorable Philippine Consul General Leo Herrera-Lim and his family, Past and current officers of the CSFA, our dear CSFA members, friends, family, ladies and gentlemen. Let me first of all thank everyone for the opportunity to lead the organization for one more year. It is truly a pleasure and blessing to be part of such a vibrant and relevant organization, and I am committed to doing my best as a way of thanking you for your trust. I would also like to express the organization's gratitude to Consul Lim, for making the long trip from Chicago to be with us tonight.

Instead of going over the planned activities and strategy for the year ahead, allow me to be a little emotional and share my personal view of our experience of being a Filipino family living in Minnesota. My family and I have been here in since 2003. It was 7 years ago when my husband received an offer to do a one-year fellowship training in spine surgery, and as Filipino families always do, we as a family all packed up and went here with the expectation that we would be on our way home after a year. Seven years and seven cold Minnesota winters later, we are still here. We have since become permanent residents and have adopted and adjusted to the American way of life. Our eldest son Jose was born in the Philippines, but has been here most of his life. He knows how to speak Filipino, but is clearly more comfortable with the English language. Manu and Anna were both born here, and are, at least on paper, Americans. For now, the plan is to stay, with no plans of moving back to the Philippines in the near future.

We all have our reasons for leaving home and planting our roots here in the US. Staying here certainly wasn't our plan when we first came. But stay we did. Some people would say that this is abandonment of your homeland, that this is the easy way out, that this is giving up on one's own country, a reflection of concern only for one's own welfare. Some would even use the term betrayal. Ed and I were both beneficiaries of the excellent education from the University of the Philippines, and we were dubbed Iskolars ng Bayan (Scholars of the Nation). And instead of staying in the Philippines to be part of the effort towards the betterment of Philippine society, we have decided to leave.

Do I consider migrating to the US an act of betrayal? My answer is no. The degree of one's patriotism and love for country goes beyond geographic location. The world that we live in now is as flat as ever, and I believe that we can do our share and be as effective in advocating and pushing for change and progress as somebody who is in the Philippines. However, for us who are on the other side of the world, this vision of a better Philippines begins with maintaining as much of the Filipino culture in us, and more importantly in our children. When we allow all that is Filipino within us, whether consciously or unconsciously, to be expunged and forgotten, then I believe that this is abandonment… then I believe that this is betrayal.

One of the greatest pleasures that I get is whenever Filipinos meet our son Jose, they marvel at how well he speaks Filipino. This for the most part, is a welcome reaction and a positive one because it validates our efforts to try to keep our son as Filipino as possible in a foreign land. However, on the flip side, this reaction can also be seen in a negative light because it means that there is really no expectation that Filipinos born and raised here in the US should be fluent in the native language. And this is the trap that we must not fall into. Being in the US, we are surrounded by American culture, and it takes effort and a conscious commitment to keep incorporating elements of Filipino culture in our everyday lives.

This is where organizations such as the CSFA play a crucial role. As a parent, I want my children to experience the things and practices that I have enjoyed while growing up in the Philippines, and the various activities from the dance practices to the Children's camp ensure that this will happen. I, myself have benefited a lot from being a part of CSFA, learning several things about culture and tradition that I would otherwise not have learned and valued had I stayed in the Philippines. I learned different folk dances and the stories behind them. Through CSFA I have been able to meet Filipinos of different upbringing from different regions in the Philippines.

Now, I know that I am preaching to the choir here. Being here tonight is proof of your commitment to the preservation of Filipino culture here in Minnesota. So I will challenge each and everyone to take it one step further, by imploring other Filipinos, friends, family, friends of friends, to value their Filipino heritage and be more active in the activities of not just the CSFA, but of the other Filipino organizations as well. The Cultural Society of Filipino Americans is as strong as ever, and if we stay true to our mission, we will, with our collective effort, continue to maintain our ties with our homeland half a world away. I am confident that the organization will continue to receive your support, and look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead.

Maraming salamat po!

(***Carolers**, continued from page 1)* However, the following week, four caroling stints (including Pasko sa Nayon) had to be called off due to the blizzard that hit Minnesota. In spite of poor road conditions after that Saturday storm, carolers gathered at the Guardian Angels Catholic Church to sing at the 11 AM Sunday mass.

The Carolers went to a total of eight homes and received almost two thousand dollars of donations. This money will be part of CSFA's grant making/charitable committee. Hardworking CSFA Caroling coordinator is Willen Korkowski.

Philippine Day 2011

Proudly Presented by the Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans

Sunday, March 20, 2011
12 noon to 4 PM
Landmark Center
75 W 5th St, St Paul, MN

Come and join us celebrate the culture and people of the Philippines with food, exhibits, dance and music right here in the Twin Cities. Admission is free!

For more information, visit www.csfamn.org and www.facebook.com/csfamn. Interested vendors and performers, contact Linda Davis (over-all event chair) at 651-770-2535.

Pasko sa Nayon 2010 Canceled. Blizzard!

For the first time in CSFA history, Pasko sa Nayon slated for December 11, 2010 was canceled. Almost 20 inches of snow and strong wind gusts made the roads treacherous for travel that day. In fact, MSP airport canceled flights because of this extreme weather condition. Everything was set for this much-awaited perennial activity. The lechon was already picked up, food was cooked, decorations were complete and the performers were ready to go. But, the safety of the people coming to this affair was a very good reason for the decision to cancel. Phone calls were made to participants and emails were sent to spread the word that CSFA was canceling Pasko sa Nayon in 2010. Event chair Lorna Faustino, co-chair Lourdes Rivera, Palengke ni Nena coordinator Nena Alojado and Program Directors, Mar Alojado, Lina Jonson and Gary Paz had so much planned that day. Despite several inquiries by concerned and interested folks regarding rescheduling, the committee and CSFA officers made the decision not to reschedule. Instead, preparations for a grander festivity at Pasko sa Nayon in 2011 is on its way.

Pit Senyor! Pit Senyor!

Sinulog!

A Filipino Visayan Celebration Of the Feast of the Infant Jesus

Novena and Mass at Guardian Angels Church
Sunday, January 16, 2011
2:00 PM Novena Prayers & 2:30 PM Eucharistic Celebration
8260 Hudson Blvd. N. Oakdale, MN 55128
Celebrant Archbishop John C. Nienstedt

Contact:

Dodge Flores: 651-260-1072 Flor Basuil: 651-774-3887
Delia Sliter: 651-442-5898 Lolita de Lara 612-521-5608
Jomar Manalo: 952-201-7163 Glen King: 763-571-7696
Marlou Hough : 651-785-7139 Ivan Sendrijas: 952-939-1909

Philippine Children's Camp 2010

Once again, this summer educational camp has proven to be a fun yet informational weekend for the kids. Last July, twenty kids with ages ranging from 6 to 12 spent two days at Halfmoon Campsite in Baker Park Reserve. There were so many activities lined up for them which included singing Filipino songs, watching a movie about an alamat, decorating their own drawstring bags, gathering around the campfire, eating Filipino food for all their meals and more. But, as always, the kids' favorites remain to be the sipa and the patintero. They won in "Are You Smarter Than Your Parents" game where questions about Philippine history and geography were asked.

This free event would not have been successful without the parents, guardians, volunteers and friends who believed in this activity. Maraming salamat po! Email *st.ligaya@gmail.com* for more information about Philippine Children's Camp 2011.

Pinoy Shots
CSFA Photo Contest

March 20, 2011 (Philippine Day)
Landmark Center, St. Paul

Theme: Salinlahi ng mga Filipino/ Generation of Filipinos

Contest is open to amateur photographers (under 18 years of age need permission from a parent/guardian). Submit 8 x 10 photos using the above theme. Each photo has a fee of $10 for non-CSFA members and $5 for students. CSFA members with updated membership dues can enter for free. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 5 entries. Interpretation, technical quality, clarity and composition will all be used to judge the photos and viewers also get a chance to vote for their favorite photo to determine the winners. Prizes are $150 for first place, $100 for second place and $50 for 3rd place. Register (name, age & contact details) or send your inquiries to Tony at t_s_sanchez@yahoo.com, Therese at ocone001@umn.edu & Ligaya at st.ligaya@gmail.com. Entries with payment may be mailed to CSFA (Photo Contest) at 2248 Wall St. Eagan, MN 55122 or handed to Tony Sanchez, Therese Peterson or Ligaya Carlos.

Cultural Society of Filipino Americans

www.csfamn.org www.facebook.com/csfamn

***(CSFA Officers 2010-11**. Continued from page 1)* the "Sexy Chicks" initiated the dancing with a modern number while Ed Faustino provided the music.
Raffle draw tickets were later drawn and the silent auction of the diverse and appealing items was closed. Dancing continued on until midnight. This Dinner and Dance was organized by committee chair Tonette Burkhart and co-chaired by Lorna Faustino.

REPRESENT THE FILIPINO!

For over two decades, CSFA has proudly taken responsibility of maintaining Filipino representation at the café, bazaar and dance performance at the Festival of Nations. Without doubt, hardworking and dedicated members and friends are the main reasons why this project is a yearly success. Once again, we are in need of the valuable support, time and talents of volunteers.

Preparations for the Filipino Café are currently underway. The licensed kitchen to be used for the food preparation belongs to the St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington. Announcements regarding final prep dates will be made soon. If interested in being part of the Filipino Café, please contact the chair, Remy Ingenhutt at 763-591-0877 or any of the co-chairs, Glen King at 763-571-7696, Lourdes Rivera at 651-578-0540 and Tessie Enanoza at 651-735-2524.

Gary Paz and Tonette Burkhart are the heads of the adult and children's performances, respectively. Linda Davis is in charge of the Filipino bazaar and Ligaya Carlos is the overall CSFA coordinator.

The Festival of Nations will be held at the St. Paul Rivercentre from May 5 to 8, 2011. For more information, visit www.festivalofnations.com.

Festival of Nations®
MINNESOTA'S LARGEST ETHNIC CELEBRATION

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Gloria Bulan Shier, 75, lost her brave fight to cancer last November 22, 2010. She is the beloved wife of Tom Shier and dedicated mother to John, Tess and Anna. Gloria is a prominent leader in Minnesota and served as CSFA President and board member. She was also the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship and a biography in "Who's Who in America". Some CSFA members remember her as an exceptional college mathematics professor.

Thank you so much for all your contributions to the Filipino community!

Rest in Peace, Glo!

Rizal Day in St. Paul

On January 8, 2011, "Tula at Larawan" was staged in honor of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, Philippine National Hero, at Bethany Baptist Church in Roseville. The play, written by Addi Batica and directed by Lita Malicsi, depicted the last days of Rizal in Fort Santiago. Lemuel Dava was the evening's narrator. Actors included Jose Malinao, Mar Alojado, Mena-li Canlas, Ria Foslien, Lyra Hernandez, Sylvia San Juan and Noe Mateo. CSFA President, Ligaya Carlos, performed an interpretative dance while Walter Tambor played the music on the piano. Sweet Dico, Jaffer Batica and Lesty Diaz read verses of Mi Ultimo Adios in three different languages. The play ended with a song rendition of "Bayan Ko" led by Robert Mariano.

CSFA Dance Troupe members, Carla Baya, Rowena Carlson. Mar Alojado and Glen King, were also part of the program. They performed Pantomina de Sorsogon and Aruy, Aruy. Before dinner was served, Lillian Brion, led everyone to a very insightful prayer.

The event was sponsored by the Filipino Community Organizations. CSFA donated pansit and rice, and also contributed bottles of soft drinks. The beautiful costumes worn by most of the female cast came from CSFA and the personal collection of Glen King.

samu't sari
CSFA

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 $ _____

Note: Membership is for a year effective on day of election (Sept 2 '10 to Sept 9 '11)

DATE:_____
NAME:_____
FAMILY MEMBERS_____
_____
_____
_____
ADDRESS:_____
TEL:_____
EMAIL:_____

INTERESTED IN:

- ☐ CHRISTMAS CAROLING
- ☐ KITCHEN PREPARATION
- ☐ FOLK DANCING
- ☐ NEWSLETTER
- ☐ WEBPAGE DESIGNING/HOSTING
- ☐ 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

Congratulations!

Team Calubayan won the Mixed Outdoor Volleyball Tournament held last August 2010 during the CSFA Family Campout at the Halfmoon Campsite in Baker Park Reserve!

Lahoz Crowned Mrs. PCM

Colet Lahoz (*above picture, on the right)* out-sold the other two candidates with ballots. She took the Mrs. PCM 2010 title at the last counting and Coronation Night in Hoa Bien Vietnamese Restaurant last December 18, 2010. A Chinese buffet-dinner was laid out for the taking.

There were two countings in between which there were a ceremonial program and dancing to the DJ music of Ed Faustino. After the canvassing, Nida Gorostiza (*in the middle*) came in second and Mila Reyes (*on the left*) third. PCM raised tens of thousands of dollars to add to the Capital Campaign!

CSFA is a 501 c3 non-profit organization serving the Filipino American community in the Twin Cities with a mission to preserve, promote and share valued Filipino customs and traditions through cultural, educational, social and philanthropic activities.

2010-2011 CSFA Officers

President Ligaya Carlos
Vice-president Antoinette Burkhart
Secretary Jean Cruz
Treasurer Willen Korkowski
Auditor Helen Hamman
PRO Lourdes Rivera

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nena Alojado
Rowena Carlson
Fe Castillejos
Carlo Cortez
Tessie Enanoza
Lina Jonson
Bambe Leiviska
Sandy Rodriguez (chair)

PO Box 2773
St. Paul, MN 55102

www.csfamn.org
www.facebook.com/csfamn

2011 CSFA EVENTS

Annual Bowling Tournament
TBD

Cultural/Generational Gap Workshop
TBD

Philippine Day 2011
March 20, Landmark Center, St. Paul

Pinoy Shots: CSFA Photo Contest
March 20, Landmark Center, St. Paul

Indoor Volleyball Tournament
April 23, Minneapolis Sports Center-YWC A of Minneapolis

Festival of Nations
May 5 to 8, Rivercentre, St. Paul

Philippine Children's Camp
June/July

Annual Family Campout
August 5 to 7,Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Outdoor Volleyball Tournament
August 6 & 7, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Election of Officers
Sept 9, Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville

Induction of Officers
October 15, MSP Airport Hilton Hotel

Pasko Sa Nayon
Dec 10, Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Oakdale

Caroling
November & December

ALIBATA

"Mabuhay ang Pilipino!"

ALIBATA EDITORS

Ligaya Carlos (st.ligaya@gmail.com)
Mar Alojado (maralojado@yahoo.com)

For your comments and suggestions, send us a message at info@csfamn.org or at PO Box 2773, St. Paul, MN 55102.

Alibata is now accepting ads. Please email editors for more details.

2010 CSFA Schedule of Meetings

Feb 11 (Membership) Santos'/Carlos' (Rosemount)
March 4 (Board) Davis' (Maplewood)
April 1(Membership) King's (Fridley)
May 13 (Board) Alojado's (Woodbury)
June 3 (Membership) Burkhart's (Minneapolis)
July 8 (Board) Santos'/Carlos' (Rosemount)
August 12 (Board) Rodriguez's/Westerberg's (Cottage Grove)
September 9 (Elections/Membership) Bethany Church (Roseville)
October 7 (Board) Korkowski's (Maple Grove)
November 4 (Membership) Rivera's (Woodbury)

Potluck dinner is at 7 PM and meeting promptly commences at 8PM. Above information is subject to change. For questions, email CSFA President Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com.