



CSFA NEWSLETTER

CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS * APRIL 2008*

TAGSIBOL! TAG-INIT!

It's springtime and another CSFA Newsletter has sprung! In this issue we recall events that brought fun and excitement during the latter part of the cold season. Upcoming family-oriented activities are also included inside to help you plan ahead for the rest of the year. Springtime also brings about the greening of our surroundings, a perfect time for the editorial staff to share with you, our readers, our effort towards

environmental consciousness. This is why you now have the option of receiving the newsletters (in color) electronically which will help cut down on paper usage. Email us at info@csfamn.org if you prefer to receive future newsletters through this method. Thank you for your help and cooperation! And, to those who have already signified their preference, we appreciate your early reply.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Ligaya Carlos **Mar Alojado**
Karl Koenen, Angel Pimentel & Gary Paz
(photos)

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

The newsletter is now in our website, www.csfamn.org.

PHILIPPINE DAY IS A LANDMARK EVENT!

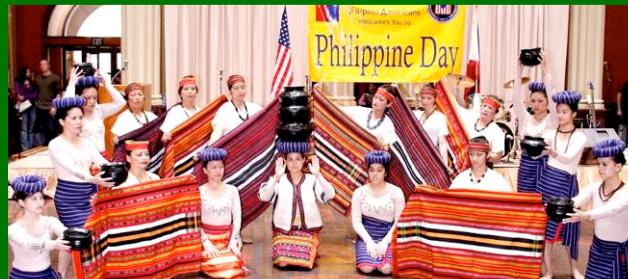
BY MAR ALOJADO

For twenty-one years, this event has snowballed into a big Filipino get-together in the Twin Cities and its surroundings. More than five hundred people came out of hibernation to chill out and warm up to others, which was the primary intent of the original organizers. They aimed to get people step out of their winter blues and welcome spring with the warmth of Philippine culture and festivities. Outside temperature was almost 30° F. It was sunny, almost like that in the Philippines, but at 30° C (or 86° F). Back home in the Philippines, it is the beginning of school summer vacation and fiestas celebrating feasts of patron saints and the abundant harvests.

This year, Philippine Day was early, held on March 9, a Sunday, from 12 noon to 5 PM, to avoid conflicting with the HS hockey tournaments, spring break and the Holy Week. The venue has always been the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. Daylight Saving Time also started and sprang time forward by one hour that day! Organizing committee members and participants woke up early to put up the décor, food, exhibits, arts and crafts and more.

The food vendors included Ramon Agne, Ala Francaise, Letty Dizon, Rose Espena and Maricar Ramirez. The Arts and Crafts vendors were Shirley Asuncion, Lorna Faustino, Ann Jaeger, Barbara Kelsey, Lily Lacap, and JR One of One. Businesses that displayed their promotion materials were VIP Real Estate and Mortgage Investment Consultant, Inc., Edina Realty, The Bridge Realty, LLC, Triple and Travel Services and Forex Cargo, Inc. Fil-Am organizations that participated were UPAM, FACC, FANN, FAWN, FMA, FMA-Youth, Gawad Kalinga, Messengers of Divine Mercy, Palawan Orphanage Project, PNA, Philippine Scholars and PSGM. Dr. Mario Garcia exhibited Filipiniana materials.

CSFA went with the motif of "Kusina ni Inang" displaying kitchen paraphernalia found in typical Filipino kitchens. Those who put these together were Fe Castillejos, Janie Noren, and Tessie Oconer. CSFA also sold beverages, Filipino directories, cookbooks and PAMANA VII videos. CSFA membership committee led by Ligaya Carlos also organized the CSFA information booth which contained registration forms, brochures, business cards, video presentation of PAMANA VII, (continued on page 2)





CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS

CSFA is a 501(c)(3) 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.

2007-2008 CSFA OFFICERS

President Jose Rivera
Vice-president Nina Jonson
Secretary Glen King
Treasurer Tony Winick
Auditor Helen Hamman
PRO Ligaya Carlos

Board of Directors

Tonette Burkhart (Chair)
 Nena Alojado
 Fe Castillejos
 Remy Ingenhutt
 Jasper Jonson
 Lina Jonson
 Pearl Malit
 Lourdes Rivera

(continued from page 1, Philippine Day...) photo collages, calendar of activities. Postcards and magnets were also given away.

The Planning Committee was headed by Linda Davis, who also looked for talents in the community to perform and to participate in the program. The program commenced with a minute of silence in remembrance of Randy, who passed away and who had also been the sound technician for many years for Philippine Day. This was followed by the "Lupang Hinirang" led by Ed Santos and the Star Spangled Banner led by Mar Alojado. Mar also emceed the variety show that delighted and entertained the audience for more than two hours! There were dances, songs, instrumentals, bands, self-defense exhibitions, and raffle



MESSAGE FROM THE CSFA PRESIDENT

Spring is upon us. It can represent a turbulent transition between winter and summer. But for most of us, it is a sign of renewal and revival.

During the past three months, I was excited to see firsthand the strength and vitality of the Filipino community here in the Twin Cities. Each event I attended was crowded with people (CSFA's own Bowling Tournament and Philippine Day, FMA's Debutante's Ball and Easterfest, PSA's MAFA Conference and Fashion Show, Pista ng Bayan and Sinulog). I can't recall the last time we had such a huge turnout for Philippine Day. I want to thank all of you for attending and participating in all these events and continually getting involved with our community.

I was also encouraged by the collaboration between the different Filipino organizations. For the first time, the community leaders worked together to compile the Community Events calendar. I was surprised to see almost one hundred meetings and events scheduled for 2008 (you can visit www.csfamn.org to view the community calendar). For such a small Filipino community, we are extremely active. CSFA was involved in helping the Filipino American Women's Network (FAWN) raise awareness for the Community Survey and also helped celebrate the University of Philippines 100th Anniversary with University of Philippines Alumni of Minnesota (UPAM). Our own Tonette Burkhart, Mar Alojado and Ligaya Carlos also serve as President, Vice President and PRO, respectively, for UPAM. CSFA also reached out to the Philippine Students Association (PSA) to provide financial support, manpower and moral support for the MAFA 2008 Conference held at the University of Minnesota. This was one of the largest gatherings of Filipino students in the Midwest so I want to congratulate PSA for taking on the challenge to host this special event.



Beginning May 1st, CSFA will be conducting its biggest fundraising event of the year at the Festival of Nations. Preparations have already gone underway. This event involves approximately 30 volunteers and almost one thousand hours of effort to complete. Activities range from wrapping lumpias, cooking pancit and adobo, selling arts, crafts and food, dancing, and cleanup. I want to recognize the FON volunteers for donating their precious time and energy (some even take vacation from work) to make this event a success.

Maraming Salamat Po!
Jose Rivera

drawings.

Highlights of the program included a message from MN Senator Amy Klobuchar read by her representative, Clara Gabriel. The senator congratulated the organizers of the event and gave recognition to the growing, political force of Filipinos. Linda Davis, who is also the chair of the CSFA Charitable Committee reported on the donations made by CSFA in fulfillment of its philanthropic mission. The CSFA Children's Choir sang "Bahay Kubo" and "Munting Tinig". And finally, the CSFA Dance Troupe performed several dances as well as Banga Salisdid and the Tinikling which will be performed at the Festival of Nations in May 2008.

WINTERFEST! A SNOWY SUCCESS!

BY NINA JONSON

One of the goals this year of the CSFA president and vice-president (Jose Rivera and Nina Jonson) is to improve the relationship between the Filipino youth and the young adults and the Filipino community here in Minnesota. So, it only seemed natural to host another youth event, where parents could learn about the Philippine Children's Camp and youth could meet one another and make new friends. As a result, Winterfest 2008 was born!

On Friday evening of February 29, 17 children ages 7 to 13 descended upon the home of Jose and Lourdes Rivera for two days of winter fun.

The evening began with a delicious and kid-friendly dinner of pizza and chicken. The kids got to know one another while their parents also enjoyed the meal and each other's company. Following dinner, Nina, also

the chair of the event, led the children in getting-to-know-you games and hide and seek, then the CSFA children's choir, led by Lourdes Rivera with piano accompaniment by Ligaya Carlos, rehearsed and recorded "Munting Tinig" and "Bahay Kubo" for Philippine Day. The kids might have gotten tired of singing the same songs again and again, but they really enjoyed hearing their professional-sounding recording! The evening ended with more games, a movie and finally, sleep! Jennifer Balagot, Jimmy Calubayan and Janet Torres were also on board this project to take care of the kids.

In the morning, after a hearty breakfast, everyone bundled up in their warmest winter clothes and headed off to Afton Alps for a day of snow tubing! The weekend before, the weather had been below zero with an icy wind, but bright sunshine and a "tropical" 20 degrees was the weather for that day. For two hours, the kids had a blast flying down the slopes on snow tubes, watching snow-

boarders and skiers go off jumps, making

snow

forts and snow
ers, and just hanging out talking by an outdoor bonfire. Everyone was smiling and laughing the entire time, whether they were sailing down the hill, toppling off of their tube, or crashing into the squishy sandbags at the bottom of the tube runs. Everyone had a great time! When tubing time was over, everyone headed back to the Rivera's for one last meal together and some more games before the children were picked up. Over the weekend, new friendships were made and old friendships were strengthened. Both kids and parents had a chance to learn and get excited about the next CSFA event just for kids—our Philippine Children's Camp! Nina and Jose were extremely satisfied with the outcome of the event and plan to make Winterfest a yearly occurrence, as well as create a yearly gathering for teenage Filipinos. They feel it is extremely important to show the children and youth in our community that they are valued and cared for, so CSFA will continue to develop opportunities for them to interact, create friendships, and learn about their culture.



*After the Philippine Children's Camp,
Before the summer ends,
Enjoy the outdoors with games, fun,
food & good company.
Stay for a day or the entire weekend for free!*



CSFA ANNUAL PICNIC/CAMPOUT

Aug 8-10, 2008

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain



Questions? Email Jose Rivera or Tony Winick at info@csfamn.org. Visit www.csfamn.org for more details.

GREET A GRADUATE!!!

Is a friend, family or loved one graduating this schoolyear 07-08? Post your message for them in the next issue of the CSFA Newsletter. Email us your greeting (in 20 words or less) at info@csfamn.org by August 21, 2008. Include the graduate's name and photo (if you have one), where & what she/he is graduating from & your name(s).

Recognize the graduates!

CSFA STRIKES A GOOD TIME! BY PEARL MALIT

The annual bowling tourney was held last February 10, 2008, Sunday, at the Midway Pro Bowl located along University Avenue in St. Paul.

Over 50 participants attended the afternoon event, which raised more than \$200. Jose Rivera, CSFA president, was on hand to announce last year's winners and to award trophies. The wintry weather was not able to dampen the competitive yet friendly spirit of the bowling buffs.

Congratulations to the following winners at this year's competition:

Men's High Game – Christian Schoeller

Women's High Game – Merle Protacio

Kid's High Game - Gian Paz

Men's High Series – Ronnie Aviles

Women's High Series - Tonette Burkhart

Kid's High Series - Joshua Rivera

Kudos goes to Nena Alojado , event chairperson, and all the volunteers for organizing another fun-filled event, with snacks galore to boot.

Regular and newbie bowlers are already looking forward, with anticipation, to next year's tournament!



Jose Rivera, Gary Paz, Lina Jonson and event chair, Nena Alojado, pose with last year's winners, Jacinta Rivera, Gian Paz, Lita Paz, Ed Faustino and Lanie Rothmund.

NEW FBL CHAMPS BY PEARL MALIT

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC)-sanctioned Filipino Bowling League (FBL) had their championship match last April 13, Sunday, at the Midway Pro Bowl in St. Paul. Diony's Pro Shop won against past champions, Kool-Langots. Diony's Pro Shop (Dante Canillas , Rommel Casals, Ed Faustino, Diony Villamor) won the first semifinal while Kool-Langots (Richard Bruber, Sooch Koam, Chris Haffely, Thanh Ngo, Robert Rubianes) won the second semifinal against fifteen other competing Fil-American teams.

The season end banquet party was held at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul last April 19, a Saturday. Season 2009 incoming president is Fe Castillejos, who is also a current member of the CSFA Board of Directors.

For those interested in joining the league next season, please contact the FBL secretary, Glenn Uri at gurbi@infionline.net or 612-3279314.

-- CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS DANCE TROUPE

Join!

Family oriented dance lessons/practices. Free for All Ages!
Every Thursday, 7-9 PM at St John's Church **
977 5th St E, St Paul, MN 55106

**Venue may change. Check website www.csfaumn.org for more information.

Contact Tonette Burkhart at 952-994-6015, Ligaya Carlos at ligayac@yahoo.com or Gary Paz at 651-463-3381, for particulars.

CSFA  ako!



WALKER ART CENTER presents:

KUBRADOR (The Bet Collector)

A family matriarch makes ends meet by running a small convenience store out of her home. But customers are scarce in a struggling economy, and without the help of her husband or pregnant daughter, she is forced to supplement the family income by collecting bets for an illegal numbers game. In this stark, realistic narrative, director Jeffrey Jeturian presents a captivating portrait of a once-proud woman haunted by memories of a dead son and hounded by the police, and her fragile and lonely life as a bet collector on the streets of Manila in 2006. In Tagalog with English subtitles. 98 minutes.

Saturday, May 10 at 9 pm
Repeat screening Friday, May 16, 9 pm
Free Student Screening: Wednesday, May 14, 9:30 am

Walker Art Center Cinema
1750 Hennepin Ave
Minneapolis , MN 55403

\$8 (\$6 Walker members)
612/375-7600 or <http://walkerart.org/tickets/>

2008 Schedule/Venue of Meetings

May 9, Membership	Santos' (Rosemount)
June 6, Board	Winick's (Burnsville)
July 9, Membership	Hiess' (New Hope)
Aug 8, Board	Jonson's (Robbinsdale)
Sept 5, Elections	Bethany Baptist Church (Roseville)
Oct 3, Membership	Rivera's (Woodbury)
Nov 7, Planning	Burkhart's (Minneapolis)

Check website for details.

Upcoming CSFA Events

Festival of Nations

May 1-4, Rivercentre, St. Paul

Philippine Children's Camp

July 12-13, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Annual Campout/Picnic

Aug 8-10, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

CSFA Elections

Sept 5, Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville

Cultural Generation Gap Workshop

Sept 27

CSFA Induction of Officers

Oct 18, Zuhrah Shrine Center, Minneapolis

Pasko Sa Nayon

Dec 13

Caroling

November and December

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer in any of these upcoming events, please visit www.csfamn.org or email us at info@csfamn.org.

CARD HOLDER?

Show your CSFA (paid) membership card to the Filipino Café cashier at the Festival of Nations and get a dollar off the combo meal. And while you're there, watch the kids dance the Tinikling on May 3, Saturday, 1 PM. The rest of the CSFA Dance Troupe will perform a Kalinga dance that evening at 8 PM.

BE A CSFA MEMBER!
RENEW your membership!
VOLUNTEER and/or DONATE!
Fill out the form below, clip and mail.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

New **Individual, \$5**

Renewal **Family, \$10**

Volunteer only

Donation: \$ _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Family members:

Address:

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Interested in:

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

FOLK DANCING

PUBLICATIONS

CHILDREN'S CAMP

PHILIPPINE DAY

PASKO SA NAYON

OTHERS: _____

Check payable to: **CSFA**

Mail form and check to:

CSFA
PO BOX 2773
ST.PAUL, MN 55102

Maraming Salamat Po!

CSFA
PO BOX 2773
St. Paul, MN 55102
www.csfamn.org

Non-profit Org
US Postage
PAID
St.Paul, MN
Permit No 5235

We do our best to keep our database accurate and up-to-date. If you have received multiple copies of our newsletter, or it is being forwarded from an old address, please let us know via email at info@csfamn.org.

Salamat po!

FROM THE
EDITORIAL STAFF



Philippine Children's Camp '08

July 12 & 13, 2008 Saturday 8 am to Sunday 11 am
Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

A fun-filled two-day summer camp for children aged 6 to 12 years. Learn a bit of Philippine geography, history & language, play games like patintero & sipa, roll & eat your own delicious lumpia, watch puppets tell stories of legends & tales, rough it out in tents with friends, sing native tunes & learn folk dances & more!

To participate and/or to volunteer, fill up the form below & mail to PO Box 2773 St. Paul, 55102. Details & waiver forms will be mailed to registrants. For inquiries, contact Ligaya Carlos at st.liqaya@gmail.com, Jasper Jonson at jonsonjasper@hotmail.com &/or Lynn Winick at 952-890-4738 / lynnrwinick@yahoo.com. Check out the website of Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans at www.csfamn.org.

Philippine Children's Camp Registration Form

NAME (S) OF CHILD (REN): _____

DATE (S) OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT (S)/GUARDIAN (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

I/We would like to volunteer my/our services in the Philippine Children's Camp on July 12 & 13, 2008.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature / Date