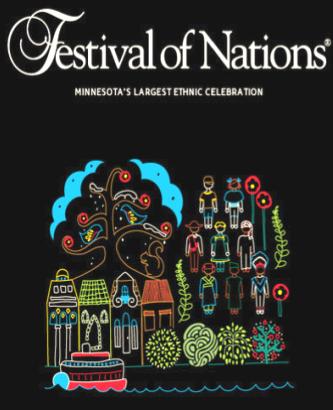


ALIBATA

Newsletter of the CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS

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"One People, One Sky"

Billed as "the largest and longest running multicultural festival in Minnesota", the 2010 Festival of Nations at the RiverCentre last April 29 to May 2 drew thousands of visitors who enjoyed the food, performances, arts and crafts of over ninety different ethnic groups. Started in 1932 by the International Institute of Minnesota, this event was established "to bring Americans of all backgrounds together", creating a sense of appreciation for the rich ethnic diversity in our community and also pride in the preservation of different cultural and family ideals.

Highlights of the festival included thirty seven authentic ethnic cafés, seventy-five cultural dance companies and musicians that provided continuous performances, thirty five art demonstrations by different accomplished artisans, fifty-five international bazaar booths and sixty cultural and educational exhibits that focused on this year's theme, "Folklore, Legends and Heroes." This year's Exhibit winners were Slovenian, Taiwanese, Chinese, Hungarian and Finnish.

A new feature in 2010 was the ExploraDome, which was sponsored by the Minnesota Planetarium Society. This 25-foot enclosed dome showcased the constellations and the many legends of the sky. To symbolize diversity across Minnesota, the daily unfurling of the American flag by the participants was observed as part of the Festival of Nations tradition. Kids from the CSFA Dance Troupe took part in this activity.

For the past several decades, the Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans has had the honor of representing the Filipinos in this very important Minnesota experience. All vendors who participate in the Festival of Nations are 501(C)(3) non-profit organizations or individuals acting on behalf of a non-profit organization. The Filipino Café served delectable dishes like the chicken adobo, lumpia, pancit, rice, carioca and bubble tea. Exciting novelties, clothing, jewelry and crafts made the Filipino bazaar booth very popular. And, there were the unforgettable renditions of the colorful Singkil and the exhilarating tinikling performed by the gifted CSFA Dance Troupe. CSFA 2010 Festival of Nations committee chair is Fe Castillejos and the co-chairs are Ligaya Carlos, Glen King, Lourdes Rivera, Linda Davis, Tonette Burkhardt and Gary Paz. The committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to the numerous volunteers whose precious time and effort have contributed greatly to our successful participation in this event.



All roads led to the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul last Sunday, March 21, 2010 for many Filipino-Americans and friends from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Attendees scrambled for parking with others who were there for the high school tournaments and the Wilds hockey game at the nearby Excel Center.

Most of the food, craft, business and organization vendors were the same ones as last year. CSFA replaced the usual thematic displays of Philippine curios. This time they unveiled the "Pinoy Shots: CSFA Photo Contest" where photos of smiling Pinoy faces (theme for this year) that typify a familiar Filipino trait were displayed and judged by an independent panel.

The event opened at noon for people to check out the displays of arts and crafts, business promotions, organization materials, and food, which was the main attraction. At 1 PM the program started that involved over 20 numbers of songs, dances, & exhibitions. The emcee, Mar Alojado, carefully introduced the participants one after the other for a smooth transition. New talents seemed to be added to the list of performers every year.

The highlights of the show were the presentation of a \$2,000 check to the American Red Cross for the disaster relief in the Philippines; choice choreographies featured in Pamana VIII, Sinulog 2010 and the upcoming Festival of Nations by the CSFA Folk Dance Troupe; CSFA's Munting Tinig (youth choral group) and the acknowledgement of the original creator of Philippine Day, Gina Schrader, who was present that day. The entertainment lasted for over 2 hours!



Two Centavos of the President

There is new hope for the future of the Philippines. This is the sentiment among majority of Filipinos following the recently concluded Philippine national and local elections. Long queues and several hours of waiting in the heat did not deter the Pinoys from casting their votes. This was evident in COMELEC's reported turnout of over 75% of registered voters! Also noteworthy was the successful automation of the election process, a first in Philippine history. While there were some minor glitches with the use of modern technology, the innate ingenuity and resourcefulness of public school teachers (modern heroes!) manning the precincts helped avoid any significant IT-related delays. It was also a relatively peaceful election by Philippine standards. The days of ballot box grabbing/stealing and scare tactics of guns and goons will hopefully be a thing of the past. And, remarkable also was the proclamation of the winning candidates within days of the elections! May pag-asaya, 'di ba?

This imperfect but much improved electoral process is the first step in the long and difficult road toward political maturity. This year's elections allowed for a quick tallying process and seemed to minimize the opportunity for fraud and cheating. What needs to follow is a change in political culture, from one that is based on bribery, intimidation and obsession with power, to one that is focused on selflessness, patriotism and public service. The former breeds corruption and moral decay, while the latter engenders societal development and upholds human dignity. This change needs to take place in those elected to the various positions, who have to constantly remind themselves that their authority comes from their constituents whose interests they should uphold above personal gains. The voting population, on the other hand, should continue to wield their power during the elections by voting based on track record and platforms, and to ensure that individuals who do not have the interest of the Philippines at heart by their actions, should not have or should be stripped of these positions. These changes are actually beginning to happen but it will take a long process for this political nirvana to become a reality. We may or may not see this in our lifetime, but the optimist that I am, I believe that the nation will achieve this ideal through vigilance and dauntlessness.

May pag-asang lumaganap ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa bayang sinilangan. Kailangang magkaisa ang mga Filipino miski tayo'y nasa bayang dayuhan.

“Ngiti ng Pinoy”

“Pinoy Shots: CSFA Photo Contest” was launched during the Philippine Day at the Landmark Centre last March 19, 2010. Eight participants submitted a total of thirty-three pictures that complied with the theme “Ngiti ng Pinoy” or “The Filipino Smile”. Marlina Gonzalez, Programs Manager of Intermedia Arts, Thomas Laventure, Managing Editor of Asian American Press and Sue Oleson, founder of the Minnesota Valley Photo Club, were the invited judges to this contest. After tallying the scores, the winners were called to the stage to be recognized and to receive their cash prizes. Congratulations to Julie Wolbers, first place and recipient of \$150, Jeff Leiviska, second place and recipient of \$100 and Agnes Espino, third place and recipient of \$50. Organizing committee members are Ligaya Carlos, Therese Peterson and Tony Sanchez. Next year’s theme is “Generations”.



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.

2009-2010

CSFA Officers

President Ligaya Carlos

Vice-president Gary Paz

Secretary Therese Peterson

Treasurer Willen Korkowski

Auditor Helen Hamman

PRO Lourdes Rivera

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Fe Castillejos

Jean Cruz

Paolo Espanola

Adelina Jonson

Glen King

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Sandy Rodriguez (CHAIR)

PO Box 2773

St. Paul, 55102

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Philippine Independence Day Celebration

June 12, 2010, Saturday 11AM – 3PM
 Roseville Central Park
 2540 N Lexington Ave
 Program, Picnic, Potluck Food & Games

Hosted by the Filipino Community Organizations (FCO)

**CSFA Congratulates
 Philippine Students Association (MN)
 2010-2011 Board Members!**

President - Paolo Payofelin Españaola
Vice President - Andrew Manalo
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BOWLING STRIKES UP A CELEBRATION

February 27 was the scheduled day for the 2010 CSFA Annual Bowling Tournament. Registration began at noon and sixty-five participants signed up for this event. There was a \$15-fee, which included three games, shoe rental, pizzas, and trophies for the winners.

There was a fundraiser by another group, going on the other half of Mattie's Lanes in South St. Paul. It was midnight bowling with black lights, flashing multi-colored lights, loud, blaring music and public announcements. All these added to the excitement and fanfare of the moment!



There were sixteen lanes reserved for the tourney. The games started with 10-minute warm-ups. Friends and families bunched together in two lanes to roll against each other. They cheered and/or jeered at their rivals while outscoring each other. People moved around and checked out other groups (and their scores!) while waiting for their turns. They went and lined up at the table where slices of a dozen huge pizzas were laid out for the taking, got their helpings, and returned to their lanes. Some people only came to visit and watch the activities.

After the first game, the award ceremonies emceed by Gary Paz took place. Last year's winners were recognized while Nena Alojado, chair of this Bowling Tournament, and Ligaya Carlos, CSFA President, handed out the trophies and posed with the winners for pictures.

Then, the games resumed with fervor and purpose to covet the prizes to be presented formally next time. The no-handicap winners are found below.

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGH SCORE	
		GAME	SERIES
MEN	Russ Schmit		622
	Jun Luces	244	
WOMEN	Tonette Burkhart		494
	Lina Jonson	160	
YOUNG	Raoul Alojado		543
ADULT	Ariane Brion	160	
YOUTH	Jose Santos		361
	Andrew Leiviska	119	

CSFA Annual Campout & Volleyball Turney

August 6-8, 2010



**Half-Moon Campsite, Baker Park Reserve, Lake Independence
4000 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359**



Take I-394 West, to I-494 North, to Hwy 55 West, left on County 24. Turn right County 19 and right again to enter Half-Moon Campsite

The entire family is invited to attend this free community event. You are welcome to camp or to just join in for the picnic festivities on Aug 7. Please bring your own beverage, camping equipment and a potluck dish to share.

Schedule:

Aug 6 Fri 1pm Golf, camp opens
Aug 7 Sat 9am-4pm V-ball Turney
2pm Games
6pm Catholic Mass
7pm Potluck Dinner with lechon
8pm Bingo & Karaoke
Aug 9 Sun 1pm camp closed

Games and Activities:

Children's games, Pabitin, Badminton, Swimming. Music and Dancing, Movies and Karaoke. Bingo with Raffles and dozens of prizes. 6-person Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament (email joserman98@yahoo.com to register) Golf outing at Baker National Golf Course (email maralojado@yahoo.com to register)

Samu't Sari



Over 25 years of dedicated service to the
Filipino overseas.



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Winterfest '10

By Jacinta L. Rivera

2010!!! The new decade starts out fresh with new ideas. Just like the new and improved CSFA Children's Winterfest. It was held last March 12, 2010, a week before Philippine Day. We trooped out with a basic slumber party at the host's house (Rivera residence). We sang Tagalog songs and also practiced "May Bukas Pa" and "We Are The World" for Philippine Day.

Later, we had a fiesta dinner and watched a movie before hitting the sack. But before sleeping, we told stories. The girls also played pranks on the boys while they were sleeping.

The following morning, we had lots of food, which the adults cooked. After breakfast, we dressed up and got ready for the real action! We carpooled to Wooddale Funzone skating rink (something new this year) where we rollerbladed and skated. We later went to Playzone and enjoyed the arcade. DJ's played fun songs and asked trivia questions to which prizes were given out if answered correctly. You can rent skates or rollerblades (rollerblades are more fun but they cost \$2 more). We raced, did tricks, and did the Chicken Dance and The Hokey Pokey. When everyone was exhausted, we drove back home while some of the adults went out to purchase food. We hung around, played video games, watched TV and rested.

Finally, lunch came but the grown-ups bought so much food! We had the energy back, and played and sang songs until parents came to pick up the kids. Everyone said their goodbyes and thought that this was one of the best times of the year.



CSFA Dances On

By Gary Paz

The CSFA Dance Troupe continues with its legacy of performing Philippine folk dances here in the Twin Cities. After the Sinulog Festival on January 17, we performed for the Diversity Night at St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis on January 29 through the invitation of Greg & Jaine King. We performed Jota Manileña, Subli, and Tinikling. After the Tinikling, the audience was invited to participate in learning the basics of the dance.

During the Philippine Day held at Landmark Center in St. Paul last March 21, the CSFA Dance Troupe performed dances from different regions in the Philippines. Generations of dancers in their colorful costumes opened the event with a performance of the Sinulog Festival Dance. Dances from Southern Philippines Sambi sa Malong and Kini-kini were performed during the middle part of the program. Pandanggo Oasioas and the most awaited Tinikling served as the finale during the festivities.

On April 17, the CSFA Dance Troupe graced a fund raising event organized by Dave and Nell Paray for the benefit of families in Cainta, Rizal who were victims of Typhoon Ondoy. The event was held at North Haven Church in North St. Paul. Pandanggo Oasioas, Ba Ingles, and Tinikling were performed to the delight of the audience.

During the Festival of Nations, we performed the Singkil on April 30 (Friday) and the Tinikling on May 1 for the Children Program. Last May 15, the CSFA Dance Troupe performed Moslem dances and tinikling at the Santacruzan. We are also preparing for performances on June 12 for the Independence Day Picnic at Central Park in Roseville June 13 for the UCC Annual Conference in St. Cloud and the Dragon Festival on July 10 and 11 at Lake Phalen.

The CSFA Dance Troupe continues with regular Thursday rehearsals at St. John's Catholic Church, 977 5th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55106 from 7pm to 9pm.



CSFA Dance Troupe

"Promoting Filipino culture in Minnesota"

Be involved!

Share your time and talent.

Meet friends!

Learn new dances.

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 Gary Paz at 612-850-7438 or
Therese Peterson at ocone001@umn.edu.*

Our sincerest gratitude to everyone who supported "Panahon: Our Sides of the Story/Cultural Gap Workshop" last February 13 at the University of Minnesota. In collaboration with the Philippine Students Association, it turned out to be a very enlightening event where issues pertinent to culture and race were raised and discussed. For suggestions on the theme and speakers for the next workshop, please send CSFA a message at info@csfamn.org. Maraming Salamat Po!

UPCOMING CSFA EVENTS

Philippine Children's Camp

July 10 & 11

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Annual Family Campout

August 6 to 8

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Annual Volleyball Tournament

August 7 & 8

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Election of CSFA Officers

September 3

Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville

Induction of Officers Dinner & Dance

October 9

Hilton MSP Airport, Bloomington

Pasko Sa Nayon

December 11

Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Oakdale

2010 CSFA Schedule of Meetings

June 4 (Membership) Alojado's (Woodbury)

July 16 (Board) Paz's (Farmington)

August 13 (Board) Rodriguez's/Westerberg's
(Cottage Grove)

September 3 (Elections/Membership) Bethany Church
(Roseville)

October 1 (Board) Davis' (White Bear Lake)

November 5 (Membership) Peterson's (Burnsville)

Potluck dinner is at 7 PM and meeting promptly commences at 8PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. For details, email CSFA president Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com.

ALIBATA



"Mabuhay ang Pilipino!"

EDITORS

Ligaya Carlos (st.ligaya@gmail.com)

Mar Alojado (maralojado@yahoo.com)

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.

Alibata is now accepting ads.

Please email editors for more details.

BE A CSFA MEMBER!

RENEW your membership!

VOLUNTEER! DONATE!

Fill out form below, clip and mail.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer only | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ |

Note: Membership is for a year effective on day of election
(Sept 11'09 to Sept 2 '10)

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

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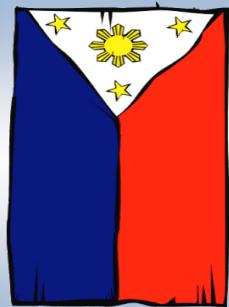
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We do our best to keep our database accurate and up-to-date. If you have received multiple copies of our newsletter or it is being forwarded from an old address, please let us know via email at info@csfamn.org.

**CSFA Election of Officers on Sept 3, 2010 at the Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville.
Contact Linda Davis at 651-770-2535 for nominations.**



**Philippine Children's Camp '10
July 10 & 11, 2010**

A fun and educational weekend for kids aged 6 to 12 years of age.

It's everything Pinoy including patintero, sipa, arts and crafts, Filipino folklore and legends, songs and lots more...it's free! Fill up registration form below & mail to CSFA (Philippine Children's Camp) PO Box 2773, St. Paul, 55102 not later than June 20, 2010. Details of the camp will be sent out upon receipt of registration forms. Email Ligaya at st.ligaya@gmail.com for questions and suggestions.

Salamat po!



CSFA Philippine Children's Camp 2010 Registration Form

(July 11 & 12, 2010, Halfmoon Campsite, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain)

NAME(S) OF CHILD(REN): _____

DATE(S) OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) : _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER(S): _____ EMAIL: _____

My child(ren) will participate in the Philippine Children's Camp on July 10 & 11, 2010.

I/We would like to volunteer my/our services in the Philippine Children's Camp.

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