



History in
the making,
One Brick at a Time!

Philippine Center
of Minnesota



www.philippinecentermn.org

"THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS" – PCM CORONATION NIGHT

What do you get when you combine a fiesta, a coronation night, plus a night of music and dancing? A wholesome night of fun, merrymaking, good food, and good company, in short – "bayanihan" par excellence, a community coming together for one purpose: to add a few more building blocks to a long-cherished dream – the Philippine Center of Minnesota. And that is exactly what more than 250 members of the Filipino-American community of Minnesota, their friends and supporters did on December 18, 2010 at the Hoa Bien Restaurant on University Avenue, St. Paul. These hardy souls braved cold, chilly and snowy weather just to be there to witness the culmination of one exhilarating campaign for the crown of Mrs. Philippine Center of Minnesota.



Lahoz crowned by Miss PCM '10

Addi Batata, noted community leader, human rights activist and historian, delivered the invocation. Its emotional power did not come as a surprise. Crisp yet touching, the invocation accurately reflected the mission of the Philippine Center of Minnesota

The long and exhilarating campaign

had drawn to a close, and finally – we were gathered for the "Main Event": the formal announcement and coronation of the winner. The three contestants for the title of Mrs. PCM entered with their respective escorts, Mila Reyes escorted by her son, Selwyn Reyes; Nida Gorostiza, escorted by her sons, Dr. John Villanueva and Jose Antonio Villanueva, and finally, Colet Lahoz, escorted by her husband, Tom Fiutak. The contestants looked elegant in their evening gowns, and all eyes were fixed on them. There were floral offerings, as well as hugs and kisses for the contestants. And as the music and cameras clicked, the canvassing of votes proceeded quietly in the back of the ballroom. There were announcements that followed, but mainly that the final canvassing was to take place when the clock struck 9:00. Ah, the agony and suspense of waiting (plus the inexplicable rush of adrenaline!)

And then it was time for the clock to remind everyone, that the moment we had been waiting for had arrived. Once more, our beloved Direk Lita Malicsi, took her turn at the microphone to make the formal announcement – "...and the winner is..." It was Colet Lahoz, Founder and CEO of East-West Clinic, who was declared winner of the Mrs.. PCM contest.

Colet, a tried and true pioneer, established the East-West Clinic, 30 years ago when acupuncture, acupressure and alternative medicine barely made a blurb in the news or on our TV screens. But she persevered, and now she

has patients who troop to her clinic in White Bear from many corners of the U.S. as well as South America. As if being a health care pioneer were not enough, Colet is also an activist, and a human rights advocate in her own right, being a co-founder of the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota (founded on Dec. 10, 1982), an organization made up of Filipinos, Fil-Ams and Americans that continues in its advocacy for human rights, social and economic justice in the Philippines. To say that the bearer of the crown of Mrs. Philippine Center of Minnesota is "extraordinary" is, well – an understatement.

The Philippine Center of Minnesota is truly grateful for the efforts of contestants Nida Gorostiza, Mila Reyes, and Colet Lahoz as well as those of their families, friends and supporters. The Mrs. PCM Contest has created more than a ripple in the pond of our dreams, and if we were to go by the figures alone – it raised well over \$17,000, a significant amount indeed, that will go towards making our dream a reality in the near future. Aside from the coronation night being a night of glamour, glitter, fun and community interaction – the coronation of Mrs. PCM itself struck us for its profound symbolism: Colet Lahoz being crowned by Miss PCM, Jennifer Mirabueno represented two generations coming together and united in one pursuit – the Philippine Center of Minnesota. This compelling moment, planned by Chair Lita Malicsi with Co-Chairs Lorna Faustino and Glen King, will be etched in the annals of PCM.

1K DREAM RACE TO REALITY II – \$100 only!

This campaign was kicked off at the Salu-Salo (see page 2) through Feasting for a Home last March 6, 2011. It was publicly announced at the CSFA Philippine Day on March 20 where flyers & pledge forms were handed out. We will make this available to others as we promote this campaign at the coming community events. We will publish this at the next issue of this newsletter. Or, you can call your nearest Board member.

As a spin-off of Part I, the dream amount & number were reduced to a realistic goal. It is now targeting 250 donors for \$100 only payable in full or installments! But, we won't be surprised if we get more! Hurry... for this will run out at the end of 2011. The following supporters from the community have pledged so far:

Mar & Nena Alojado	Nannette & Jun Beltran
Meg & Paul Bloom	Marither Chuidian
Lorna & Ed Faustino	Glen & Gary King
Willen & Mike Korkowski	Artemio Macahia, Sr.
Lita & Abe Malicsi	Boyet & Bebot Mangaliman
Obet & Emy Mariano	MC Express-FOREX
Sarah & Ramon Puerto	Gina & Wilfried Schrader
Erlinda & Jack Shotton	Tito & Becky Sumangil



Philippine Center of Minnesota
1850 3rd Street SW
New Brighton, MN 55112

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2011 Filipino Community Calendar (Watch for flyers about details)

April 16 FMA Easterfest April 23 CSFA Volleyball Invitational May 8 PNA SGKomen Walkathon
June 11 FCO Philippine Independence Day June 17-19 CSFA Children's Camp June 25-26 FMA Basketball Invitational
July 9 FMA Srs Walkathon & Free Clinic July 30 FMA Pagdiriwang August 5-7 CSFA Family Campout/Picnic
August 6 CSFA Outdoor Volleyball Tourney August 13 PCM Day August 20 FMA Srs. 1-Day Field Trip
August 28 FMA Klasika Home Series

"Salu-Salo" - An Afternoon of Fun and Fervor

On a snowy and sullen Sunday afternoon last March 6, 2011, the spirits were high; music, laughter and fun camaraderie abounded at Sawatdee and Zushiya Restaurant in North Maple Grove. Over 50 special guests, generous supporters and leaders of local Filipino societies partook in a "Salu-Salo"- a banquet featuring a sumptuous and exotic 5-course meal paired with exquisite tropical fruit drinks. The event was organized and sponsored by the Philippine Center of Minnesota (PCM) - a 501(c)(3) organization. It is yet one of the endeavors dedicated towards securing a Philippine Center that can be home to 15 civic organizations and approximately 10,000 Filipinos living in the state of Minnesota.



Among the highlights of the gathering were the lively musical performance by vocal artist Mr. Robert Mariano, the first goodwill speech of the recently crowned Mrs. PCM- Colet Lahoz and the kick-off of the 1K Dream Race To Reality II. An encouraging milestone update was provided by PCM Chair, Dr. Nanette Beltran. Culinary expert and restaurateur, Evangeline Eres Stacy, herself a Filipina and a supporter of the PCM, prepared the food that were artistically plated and graciously served by the PCM Board. The event was a success and a reticent proof of the community's support for the common cause.

Building Updates

Since December 2010, we have been looking with great interest at a few prospects, namely: Riverside Bar and Grill, 9510 W. River R. Brooklyn Park; 901 Concord Ave. South St Paul; & 100 Signal Hills, West St Paul. The building committee made cursory visits & inspections of these properties, & made preliminary assessments based on the criteria to measure the minimum rating before considering for more visits & review by the Board. The first 2 were recommended for consideration. However, estimates on the work to be done to upgrade these to move-in condition are needed. A volunteer from the community was asked to do exactly that.

Pending on those tasks, we are still pressing on our Capital Campaign to bring in more money to improve our financial standing. Since we are getting closer to our mission, we are soliciting volunteers for their time & services to help maintain the building & its operations. We are looking for potential groups & businesses to lease or rent spaces in the building. Sign up NOW. This will help bring in income to pay for the monthly mortgage & expenses.

Once we acquire the building, we will hire an Executive Manager who will run the scheduling of activities & operations.

Philippine Center of Minnesota

Financial Status as of 3/25/2011



- GOAL \$500,000
- Our Milestone \$197,000
 - Collectibles (~\$65,000)
 - 1K Dream Race I 5,600
 - Mrs. PCM: 5,000
 - Matching donation 50,000
 - Feasting "Salu-Salo" 1,450
 - 1K Dream Race II 1,600 (ongoing)
- Target Balance: \$303,000 through more Feasting, 1K Dream Race II, Tunog Pinoy, Pagdiriwang, PCM Day, Capital Campaign, & others

We need your HELP to reach our goal!