



# CSFA NEWSLETTER

CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS \* JANUARY 2008\*

## MABUHAY 2008! SALAMAT 2007!

This brand new year provides another great opportunity for CSFA to further fulfill its mission and to better serve the Filipino-American community here in Minnesota. But, before we venture into the future, let's look back to the year that was. Without doubt, in 2007, the dedication, time and talents of members and volunteers were integral to the success of all the annual CSFA activities like the Philippine Day, Pasko Sa Nayon, Festival of Nations, Bowling Tournament and Caroling. As a result, other CSFA activities and different deserving institutions, like the Philippine Students Association and the PMMA (for their Medical Mission), received generous financial support from the funds raised. The revived Cultural and Generation Gap Workshop and the Philippine Children's Camp, on its second year, were well attended and will be repeated this year. The CSFA Dance Troupe remains to be the most popular Filipino folk dance group in the Twin Cities. Several requests for performances were received for practically every week of the year.

2007 was a challenging yet a very productive year. Obstacles were overcome. Experiences and friendships were gained. Growth was definitely observed. These will consequently make 2008 more fun-filled and encouraging. Salamat sa lahat ng tumataguyod! Mabuhay 2008! Mabuhay CSFA!

### In this issue

Mabuhay 2008! Salamat 2007!	1
Message from the President	1
CSFA 36th Induction of Officers	2
Cultural and Generation Gap Workshop	2
"Pasko Sa Nayon" is for the Kids	3
Philippine Day 2008	3
Caroling 2007	4
CSFA Dance Troupe	4
Meeting Schedule	5
Membership Form	5
Calendar of Events	5
Bowling Tournament	6

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Ligaya Carlos**      **Mar Alojado**

**Karl Koenen (photos)**

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

*The newsletter is now in our website, [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org).*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Manigong bagong taon sa inyong lahat!

I feel honored to have been elected as the new president of CSFA and look forward to fulfilling our mission to preserve and promote our Filipino culture and to share with the local community.

I would like to begin my term by formally introducing myself to the community. I've been married to my wife Lourdes for 10 years and are proud parents of four wonderful kids ages 2 to 9. I

was born in Quezon City and immigrated to Los Angeles in 1978. I spent most of my life enjoying the Southern California lifestyle until I decided to move away from home and eventually settled in Minnesota in 1995. I feel lucky to have found a perfect place to raise my family. I am currently a Senior Manager at a global technology company called Fair Isaac (known for inventing the FICO credit score). I enjoy spending time with my family and playing sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball, ping-pong).



2007-08 CSFA President Jose Rivera with wife, Lourdes

One thing most people don't know about me is that I was nicknamed "Palito" when I was growing up in the Philippines.

I have been an active CSFA volunteer for over 10 years, having served as Auditor, Board Member and Event Coordinator. I was drawn to CSFA because of its strong leadership and its commitment and passion for preserving our Filipino culture. CSFA has helped me regain my own cultural identity and I hope to pass that on to my children and the

community. As president, I will lead the organization with the following guiding principles in mind: we must promote our culture to the benefit of our youth, we must continually innovate in providing services to our community, and we must collaborate with other organizations to further our mission. You can expect CSFA to bring in new ideas, more events for kids, and open lines of communication with the community.

I look forward to serving you.



## 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 Ingenuh  
 Jasper Jonson  
 Lina Jonson  
 Pearl Malit  
 Lourdes Rivera

## CSFA 36<sup>TH</sup> INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

BY TOM BURKHART



Inducted 07-08 CSFA officers. L-R. Jose Rivera, Nina Jonson, Therese Peterson (resigned), Helen Hamman, Ligaya Carlos, Tonette Burkhart, Pearl Malit, Lina Jonson, Jasper Jonson, Nena Alojado & Lourdes Rivera. Not in photo - Fe Castillejos, Remy Ingenuh, Glen King and Tony Winick

On October 20, 2007, the CSFA conducted its 36th annual induction of officers at the Zuhrah Shrine Center in Minneapolis. The evening began with the singing of the Philippine national anthem led by Ed Santos, followed by the singing of the United States national anthem led by Mar Alojado. The invocation was led by Lillian Brion. After dinner, a spoken word rendition of "Pinay" was performed by Mary-Ann

Prado and Tisha Alojado. This chronicled the sometime difficult adjustments that need to be made by young Filipinos growing up in the U.S. In keeping with that theme, the Cultural Gap Vignette artists, in a series of skits, portrayed real life scenarios of parent and child conflicts, specific to cultural issues of Filipino families raising children in the U.S. The skits were real and thought provoking. The powerful question that ended each skit: "Why don't you speak my language?!" is one that many families, Filipino or otherwise may have often asked in times of conflict or disagreement. The program continued with a tribute to all past CSFA presidents. A slide show presentation featured their biographies, tenure and accomplishments in the organization. The honorees who were at the event were introduced and recognized. These past presidents were symbols of the tradition of CSFA and are a large part of the reason the CSFA has been and will continue to be successful. Later, past president Dionisio Borja conducted the official induction ceremony. After this, newly elected President Jose Rivera took the stage to give his inauguration speech. One of the points Jose noted in his speech is his desire to engage the younger generation of Filipino-Americans into the organization to continue the rich traditions of CSFA. After the formal ceremonies, it was time to DANCE! Ed Faustino rocked the house with music from different genres. As always, the dance floor was full and a variety of dance steps (and abilities) were on display. Kudos to Nina Jonson who acted as the night's emcee, Lorna Faustino who handled the decorations and set-up, Glen King and Judith Hiess who were in charge of ticket sales, and Tonette Burkhart and Jeff Hiess who were the chairs of the event. Thanks to all others who helped make this affair a tremendous success.

## CULTURAL AND GENERATION GAP WORKSHOP

BY JOSE RIVERA

"Sa Isip, Sa Salita, At Sa Gawa" (In thoughts, words and deeds). That was the culmination of the Cultural Gap workshop, as the participants pledged to listen without judging, respect differences and celebrate who we are. The purpose of the CG Gap Workshop is to provide our community a forum to share ideas and openly discuss issues impacting Filipino-Americans living in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The workshop was held at the Parish Community of St. Joseph in New Hope last Sept 29, 2007. This year's theme was "Why Don't You Speak My Language", which focuses on communication gaps between parents and our youth. There were about 65 attendees.

The workshop was kicked off by our guest speaker EJ David, who flew in from Alaska to talk about his research on "Colonial Mentality", and its impact on generations of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans. This was followed by a series of short skits which portray parent-teen interactions in a typical Filipino household. These skits were played by local actors; Mar & Tisha Alojado, Norm, Helen & Haley Hamman, and Chris Rivera. The majority of the workshop was done through a series of breakout sessions by parents and youth participants. The youth groups highlighted the following challenges when dealing with their parents: independence, letting go, lack of trust, setting unrealistic expectations and double standard between boys and girls. The parents also had their list of challenges: driving privileges, disrespecting elders, obeying house rules, lack

of time management, sexuality, having friends over without permission. After the breakout sessions, a group of panel members were assembled to answer questions from the audience. The panel of psychologists, teachers and counselors included of EJ David, Chris Rivera, Belen Andrade, Laura Kuehn and Mary Ann Prado.

Special recognition goes to all the volunteers who helped make this event happen: Ludy Bergenthal, Glen King, Al Poliarco, Lourdes Rivera, Lita Malicsi, Jeff Hiess, Remy Ingenuh, Josie Koenen, Fe Castillejos, Nena Alojado, Pearl Malit, Evelyn Bayer, Jasper & Alex Jonson, Ferdie Oconer, Linda Davis, Lynn Winick, Mia Clark Krystel & Justin Calubayan.



EJ David giving his talk on "Colonial Mentality".

## "PASKO SA NAYON" IS FOR THE KIDS

Pasko Sa Nayon 2007 was held at the St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington last December 8. A large number of people came to participate and to admire this popular annual CSFA activity. Noticeable in this event was the huge number of young attendees. The interactive skit entitled "Simoy, Himig at Tanawin ng Pasko sa Pilipinas" was primarily performed by the children. The kids even had a prepared song number which was very amusing and entertaining. The palengke, raffle draw, complimentary meal, the caroling, the blessings from godparents/grandparents and gift-giving care of Santa Claus were sought out and enjoyed by everyone. Congratulations to Pearl Malit, chair of the event, and her committee members for a well-organized and fantastic afternoon.



The Nativity scene was composed of young children who played their parts very well.



"You better watch out...Santa Claus is coming to town!"

  
**esfa**   
**Philippine Day 2008**

**Come, join us and have fun!**  
**Experience the culture, the food, the art and the people of the Philippines right here in the Twin Cities.**  
**Admission is free!**

**TARA NA!**

For details & vendor information, call Linda Davis at 651-770-2535 or go to [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org).

**Outside the kulambang kai! Bigel!**

**Hoy! Muntik mo ne akong tamaan. Kung seen-sean ka kasi nekatingin!**

**Ang sexy nung chick!**

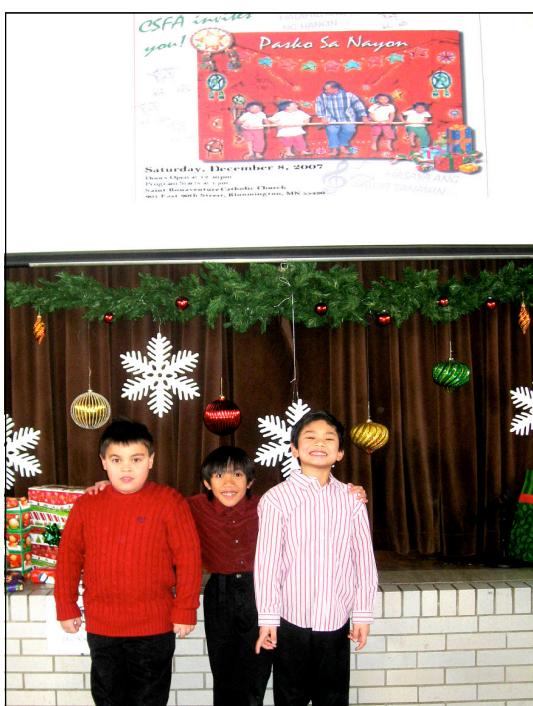
**Abangan ang mangyayari sa Philippine Day...**

\* Parking ramps near the Landmark Center are Lawson, Victory, & Macy's. Meters around the area are free that day. For more parking information, go to [www.zaincuberking.com](http://www.zaincuberking.com).

Saturday, December 8, 2007  
St. Bonaventure Catholic Church  
101 East 5th Street, Bloomington, MN 55401



Santa's here! Is that Mrs. Claus helping him?...it's just Kemilyn!!



Andrew, Joshua & Jose posing under the banner with their picture.

## CAROLING 2007

BY LOURDES RIVERA

During the past Christmas season, CSFA carolers once again rang those bells and sang a wonderful mix of Filipino, English and Spanish carols. Even with all the holiday shopping rush and preparations for their own celebrations, thirty carolers still put in all their energy and time to bring good cheer to families around the Twin Cities. The group sang for seven families, two nursing homes and two restaurants. The carolers were also invited to sing at the Misa de Gallo organized by the Filipino Catholic Community and at the annual Christmas party of the Eastsiders of St. Paul. Despite the cold, weariness and hunger, the performance of the group kept becoming livelier and better. As a result, a total of almost \$3300 was collected for their efforts. This will be used for future CSFA projects and will also be given to worthy beneficiaries.

CSFA would like to thank the families and the people who warmly welcomed the carolers in their homes. Heartfelt appreciation goes to Angie Colliander, Mercy and Ramon Navarro, Mike and Willen Korkowski, Vangie Stacy of Maple Grove Sawatdee Thai Restaurant, Supenn of Sawatdee Thai Restaurant in Minneapolis, Debbie and Christine Miller, Aurora Gavino, Nanay Ramirez, Gladys Aquino Aakre, Tom and Nico Haight, Ronnie and Girlie Aviles, and Jimmy and Juliet Calubayan. For sending in their financial contributions, CSFA is sincerely grateful to the following: Johnny and Lee Ann Fugaban, Nenita Lumapas, Joselito and Lilian Ignacio, Robert and Marilyn Ruppe, Sophal and Andrea Eleria Yin, Diaz family (Maria Teresa, Manny, Cely, Ferdinand and Corazon), Boyet and Bebot Mangaliman, and Willie and Maricel Tropezado.

The success of this year's caroling is once again attributable to the persevering Jun Luces, the group's musical director and to the unwavering effort of Ludy Bergenthal for looking for hosts. Appreciation also goes out to the dedicated carolers and guitarists: Glen King, Mar and Nena Alojado, Fil and Shirley Asuncion, Dionic Borja, Fe Castillejos, Linda Davis, Peping del Carmen, Tessie Enanoza, Ed and Lorna Faustino, Ed Griggs, Jeff and Judith Hiess, Meding Inganhutt, Lina Jonson, Josie Koenen, Grace Lao, Pearl Malit, Ferdie and Tessie Oconer, Jose and Lourdes Rivera, Trell Rosso, Randy and Jo Tigue, Sandy Rodriguez, Lynn Winick, Willen Korkowski, Judd Knauss, Ricky Cazcarro, Dante Canillas and Cesar Castillejos.

Apologies to Jack and Erlinda Shotton, Martin and Gloria Hunsberger, and Ramon Tan of United Noodles for canceling our appearance due to severe weather condition.



"We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

*Enjoy Filipino culture.  
Meet Friends.  
Learn, have fun & perform.  
Be part of the family.*

-- 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.csfa.org](http://www.csfa.org) for more information

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

CSFA aka!



## 2008 Schedule/Venue of Meetings

Jan 4, Membership	Ingenhutt's (Golden Valley)
Feb 1, Board	Davis' (White Bear Lake)
Mar 7, Membership	Rivera's (Woodbury)
April 4, Board	King's (Fridley)
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
Oct 3, Membership	Alojado's (Woodbury)
Nov 7, Plannning	Burkhart's (Minneapolis)

*The public is invited to attend  
and participate in any of these meetings begin-  
ning at 7 P.M.  
Check website for details.*

## CSFA Calendar of Activities for 2008

- ★ **Bowling Tournament**, Feb 10, Midway PRO Bowl, St. Paul
- ★ **Snowtubing**, February, Afton
- ★ **Philippine Day**, Mar 9, Landmark Center, St. Paul
- ★ **Festival of Nations**, May 3-6, Rivercentre, St. Paul
- ★ **Philippine Children's Camp**, July 12-13, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain
- ★ **Annual Campout/Picnic**, Aug 3-5, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain
- ★ **CSFA Elections**, Sept 7, Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville
- ★ **Cultural Gap Workshop**, Sept 29
- ★ **CSFA Induction of Officers**, Oct 20, Zuhrah Shrine Center, Minneapolis
- ★ **Pasko Sa Nayon**, Dec 8

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members:

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Address:

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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  
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St. Paul, MN 55102

[www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org)

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Let's strike up some fun!  
Let's strike up some fun!

## 2008 CSFA Annual Bowling Tournament



February 10, 2008, Sunday  
Midway PRO Bowl  
1556 University Ave, St. Paul  
Registration begins at 12 noon.  
Pins will fall at 1 PM.



\$12 registration fee includes 3 games and shoe rental.  
Trophies awarded to winners of different categories.

For more information,  
call Nena Alojado at 651-578-8431  
or visit [www.csfamn.org](http://www.csfamn.org).

CSFA alo!