

Enero/January 2010

ALIBATA

Newsletter of the CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FILIPINO-AMERICANS

ALIBATA
The Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans
www.csfamn.org

www.facebook.com/csfamn

CSFA Wants You!

The Filipino Café at the Festival of Nations will once again be serving delicious Pinoy favorites from April 29 to May 2 at the Rivercenter in St. Paul. Preparations for that event have already commenced and last January 22 and 23, volunteers have gathered at the kitchen of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington to help prepare and roll lumpia for the Café. CSFA is grateful to those who came that weekend. Maraming salamat po kina Cesar Castillejos, Ferdie and Tessie Oconer, Gary, Lita and Gian Paz, Jose, Jacinta and Joshua Rivera, Marcy Ager, Salim Ancheta, Emil, Evelyn, and Kemilyn Bayer, Jo Bong, Diony and Jona Borja, Peping Del Carmen, Christine Del Puerto, Tessie Enanoza, Marie Gillen, Bebot Mangaliman, Sandy Rodriguez, Jane Ungemach, Emily Weber, Susan Weber and Tony Winick and to those in charge that day, Fe Castillejos, Remy Ingenuhett and Lourdes Rivera.

There are still other food preparation days for the Festival of Nations at St. Bonaventure Church in Bloomington. The other dates are February 21 (Sunday), March 6(Saturday), March 20 (Saturday) and April 25 (Sunday), all from 9 am to 3/4 pm. During the Festival of Nations itself, help will also be needed at the Filipino Café as vendors, cooks, runners, etc. Please contact Ligaya Carlos at st.ligaya@gmail.com, Fe Castillejos at fecastillejos@yahoo.com, Lourdes Rivera at 651-578-0540 and Glen King at 763-571-7696 for inquiries and to indicate your interest to volunteer. And, also watch out for the Filipino Bazaar and the CSFA Dance Troupe (kids and adults) performances at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium during the Festival of Nations.



Christmas, Caroling and Bayanihan Spirits



Four Wednesday-night choir practices started as early as November. Jun Luces, Cesar Castillejos, Dante Canillas, Roger Ungemach, Joe Malinao and Judd Knauss composed the strings and some singers doubled as percussionists. The Kings, Alojados, Castillejos, and Winicks hosted the rehearsal venue with snacks and potluck dishes. The same group of people participated with refreshingly new faces like Jessica Leick and Gian Paz, who sang the sweet, cherubic solo part of Holy Night!

Willen Korkowski and Lourdes Rivera coordinated the planning of rehearsals, hosts, directions, and schedule for three weekends in December. The carolers went to as far as Otsego in the northwest, Woodbury in the northeast, Rosemount in the southeast and Bloomington in the southwest. They went to nursing homes, too!

The choir also entertained attendees of CSFA's Pasko sa Nayon on December 12. The Filipino Catholic Community's Misa de Gallo on December 19 was another venue for singing during the traditional mass at 5:30 AM and the "almusal", a Filipino breakfast buffet. The following day, they provided the music for the 11 AM mass of Guardian Angels. The churchgoers loved and enjoyed their rendition of songs but preferred the Tagalog Christmas songs as the English-translations were projected on the screen. In two of these stints, the group managed without lead guitarist, Jun, and main conductress, Glen King! Such professionals!

Despite the gloomy economy and lower number of hosts this year, this Caroling project collected more than \$2k for CSFA. Good times, fun company, sumptuous food, goodwill and joyful tears evoked especially from the nursing home residents made this experience meaningful and worthwhile! The Spirit of Christmas will extend to helping the disaster relief programs in the Philippines and elsewhere!

A Letter from the President

The Philippines is a country full of fascinating places to see. It's regrettable though that some Pinoys fail to appreciate the beauty and splendor of our native land. A better understanding of our heritage will be achieved if we gain more knowledge of our country and people by the simple act of visiting various sites in the Philippines. Our children will also recognize the value of their racial identity when they know we also value ours.

Whenever I'm in the Philippines, I always take the opportunity to go to Anilao in Batangas. For several years now, the fishermen of this area have stopped using dynamite to fish. Because of this, marine life, including corals and flora, has thrived causing an increase in the interest of divers like me to enjoy the ever-increasing number of dive sites in the town's waters. There are several other dive sites in the Philippines that I have yet to discover. Tubbataha and Apo Reefs are at the top of my list.

During our last trip to the Philippines, Mayon Volcano was spewing magma. It was alert level 3 and people residing at a radius of 8 kilometers around the volcano were being evacuated. In spite of this, flights to Legaspi were not cancelled. So, Jose (my son) and I hopped on a plane to see the magnificence of this eruption. Although I have experienced the ashfall (in Paranaque!) brought by the eruption of Mt Pinatubo, I have never seen actual lava trickling down the sides of an active volcano. Watching Mayon at night from Daraga Church was spectacular. Jose and I stayed with relatives and flew back to Manila the following day. A couple of days later, the alert level was raised to 4!

Also during this visit, the entire family went to Bohol. This was my husband's first time in Bohol and this was my third. We joined tours of the Bohol countryside and also of Panglao Island. We visited old Catholic churches made of limestone and our favorite is found in Baclayon. This church also has a museum, which houses precious religious artifacts. Unfortunately, some of these antiques are forever lost because of robbers. Chocolate Hills located in the central part of Bohol in a town named Carmen is a marvel to see. How it came about is even more amazing! The Loboc River lunch cruise was certainly leisurely and delicious! We also saw tarsiers in a sanctuary but were not allowed to hold or to touch them (Good thing!).

In Panglao, white and fine sands define the beaches of the island and if one desires to go check out Balicasag, dive centers are abundant in Alona Beach! The Bee Farm was definitely a refreshing destination to check out in Panglao. The owner is a retired Filipino-American nurse who returned from the States to Bohol with her American husband. Food and ambience in the Bee Farm are superb! And, if spelunking is your thing, the Hinagdanan cave in Panglao shouldn't be missed.

The Great Binondo Food Wok conducted by Ivan Man Dy (www.oldmanilawalks.com) was both an amusing and educational experience especially for us who have never really trekked Chinatown in the Philippines. We dressed comfortably and arrived hungry at the San Lorenzo Ruiz church aka Binondo Church. There were forty "wokers" of all ages and nationalities (local Pinoys included). Ivan gave a brief history of Binondo and Intramuros. He later brought us to different stores and small restaurants, most of which were holes in walls. We tried fried rice, tea eggs, soup, hopia, siopao, lumpia, fried dumplings to name a few. We learned about the Chinoys and how and why their forefathers moved to the Philippines from China.

Tours that I would want to join in the future include Living La Vida Imelda (www.celdrantours.blogspot.com), the quickie tour of the National Museum in Manila (home of the Spoliarium of Juan Luna) by John Silva (www.johnsilva.blogspot.com) and the Mt. Pinatubo Tours (www.pinatubotrek.blogspot.com). Of course, fiestas like the Pahiyas and Sinulog are also on my to do list. Suggestions are welcome!

- Ligaya Carlos



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

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PO Box 2773
St. Paul, 55102

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

Philippine Day '10

Proudly presented by the *Cultural Society of Filipino Americans*

Sunday, March 21, 2010

12 noon to 4 PM

Landmark Center

75 W Fifth St, St Paul, MN

*Come and experience the culture, food, art and
people of the Philippines right here in the Twin Cities.*

Admission is free!

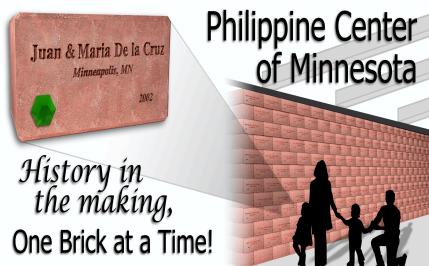
For more information, visit

*www.csfamn.org and www.facebook.com/csfamn or
contact Linda Davis (over-all event chair) at 651-770-2535.*

1k Dream Race to Reality

Be one of the first THOUSAND donors to make the DREAM come true! We can NOW realize the long-time Filipino wish to have our own home-away-from-home when we all participate in this 1K campaign. This promotion will end as soon as 1,000 donors have signed up but no later than April 15, 2010.

Hurry! First come, first served!
Only when the pledge is redeemed can it be counted. Be part of history!
Your name will be engraved in a plaque acknowledging the 1,000 donors on the facade of the building - a monument of your legacy to future generations!



Sign up as an individual/family, organization or business to raise a total of \$365,000 by making a pledge to donate \$365. That's only \$1 a day for a year! We will collect the payments payable in a year unless paid in full by sending you a bill soon after April 15, 2010. Please check for matching donation programs where you work. If applicable, your company will be considered as a Business donor. Donations to PCM are tax-deductible!

To date, there are 27 donors who have pledged. And an anonymous donor has stepped up to match each dollar pledged in this campaign up to \$50K! The race continues as pledges are solicited and forms handed out at upcoming Fil-Am events. Sign up now and receive a complimentary tote bag with the PCM campaign logo until supplies last! Go to www.philippinecentermn.org for more details!

**A dollar a day,
will get us a building
today!**

Pinoy Shots: CSFA Photo Contest

March 21, 2010 (Philippine Day)
Landmark Center, St. Paul

Theme: Ngiti ng Pinoy/The Filipino Smile

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 Ligaya at st.ligaya@gmail.com, Tony at tony.sanchez@frontiernet.net & Therese at ocone001@umn.edu. Entries with payment may be mailed to CSFA (Photo Contest) at PO Box 2773 St Paul, MN 55102 or handed to Ligaya Carlos, Tony Sanchez or Therese Peterson.

Cultural Society of Filipino Americans

www.csfamn.org

www.facebook.com/csfamn

*Let's strike up some fun!
Don't spare family and friends!*



2010 CSFA Annual Bowling Tournament

Saturday, 27 February 2010

Mattie's Lanes

365 N. Concord Street

South St. Paul, MN 55075

Registration begins at 12 noon.

Pins will fall at 1 PM.



Registration fees include 3 games, shoe rental, & pizza!
\$12 for kids 10 years old or younger & seniors 65 & older
\$15 for everybody else between 10 & 65 years old
Trophies awarded to winners of different categories....

**For more information,
call Nena Alojado at 651-578-8431
or visit www.csfamn.org.**

CSFA **ako!**

The Philippine Student Association at the University of Minnesota
in collaboration with the Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans presents

Panahon - Our Sides of the Story

(A Cultural Gap Workshop)

Saturday, Feb 13, 2010, 9:30 am to 2 pm
3F Coffman Memorial Union, University of MN
300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis

Search this event in www.facebook.com. For queries, contact Paolo Españaola at espan007@gmail.com.

Pasko sa Nayon 2009

Last December 12, 2009, CSFA held its annual Pasko sa Nayon at the Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale. This event had free admission and was open to the public. There were hundreds of attendees who enjoyed the interactive skit, gift giving, songs of carolers, especially the Munting Tinig's, the dances of the CSFA Dance Troupe and the food prepared. Several vendors took part of the Palengke ni Nena organized by Nena Alojado. By the time the program was over, everyone was hungry and ready for the lunch served by the organizers. Kudos goes to the event chair and co-chair, Lorna Faustino and Lourdes Rivera, for a job well done and of course, to the kids, who were the stars of the program!



CSFA Dance Troupe "Promoting Filipino culture in Minnesota"



*Be involved!
Share your time and talent.
Meet friends!
Learn new dances
and 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.*

CSFA Dancers set Sinulog in Motion

The weather "miraculously" turned warmer for this annual event. The Sinulog attracted hundreds of people to Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Oakdale on Sunday, January 17. The ceremony started with a mass officiated by Fr. Vic Valencia with vases of roses and several images of Santo Niño at the altar. Included in the mass was the performance of CSFA dancers and friends in Moslem costumes dancing to Pit Señor. Songs and prayers were recited in Cebuano except for the Prayer of the Faithful delivered in several dialects.

Reception took place in the social hall where bountiful and delicious food was served. Seniors were served first by cart-pushing ladies before the rest of the crowd were called to the food line by drawing table numbers. The Food Committee as usual was resourceful in providing food and systematic in dishing them out.

During the program, CSFA dancers rendered another Moslem-inspired dance number to the beat of Pit Señor! This year, YenYen McSherry, Carla Murdoch and Gary Paz choreographed the dances. Next year will be the Sinulog's 10th year Anniversary!



FIL-AM COMMUNITY HONORS RIZAL

The Filipino Community Organizations (FCO) made sure that Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal's memory is not forgotten by holding a program last January 2, 2010 at the Bethany Baptist Church in Roseville. This is an annual event with entertainment, skit depicting his life and death, and dinner.

As always, Lita Malicsi and Addie Batica collaborated to re-enact the last days of Rizal in the skit "Tula at Larawan". It provided the background for his poem "Ultimo Adios" written in Spanish being recited in two other languages, English and Filipino. The skit culminated with the singing of "Bayan Ko" by the whole cast. Tears and emotions flowed in the audience!



Despite the sub-zero weather, several came to witness the event. Prior to the play, local talents sang, danced and recited stories. Addie related poignant parts of Rizal's life leading to his death. CSFA dancers, Gary Paz and Lina Jonson, danced the Habanera Botolena. Cherrie Adiarte was narrator of the skit.

Dinner was served with food contributed by the participating organizations. CSFA perennially provides pansi. The FMYO carolers sang Noels and passed hats for donations.

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

CSFA (Membership/Donation)
PO Box 2773
St. Paul, MN 55102



Cultural Society of Filipino-Americans
PO Box 2773
St. Paul, MN 55102

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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.

UPCOMING CSFA EVENTS in 2010

Cultural Gap: Panahon-Our Sides of the Story

February 13, 9:30am to 2pm

Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota

Annual Bowling Tournament

February 27

Mattie's Lanes, South St Paul

Winterfest

March 6, Woodbury

Philippine Day 2010

March 21

Landmark Center, St. Paul

Pinoy Shots: CSFA Photo Contest

March 21

Landmark Center, St. Paul

Festival of Nations

April 29 to May 2

Rivercentre, St. Paul

Philippine Children's Camp

July 9 to 11

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Annual Family Campout

August 6 to 8

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

Annual Volleyball Tournament

August 7 to 8

Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain

ALIBATA

 "Mabuhay ang Pilipino!"

ALIBATA 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.

2010 CSFA Schedule of Meetings

Feb 5 (Membership)	Santos'/Carlos' (Rosemount)
March 5 (Board)	Oconer's (St.Louis Park)
April 2 (Membership)	Rivera's (Woodbury)
May 7 (Board)	Cruz's (Minneapolis)
June 4 (Membership)	Alojado's (Woodbury)
July 16 (Board)	Paz's (Farmington)
August 13 (Board)	Rodriguez's/Westerburg'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.