

ISSUE 3 MARCH 1, 2022

BALITA SA FACC

FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF COLORADO NEWS

Much to do at the FACC

Busy... Busy... Busy... I don't know what else to say about the next few months for the FACC Board and our Community. Where do we begin?

March 6 will mark the return of our beloved program, Maski Paps. Maski Paps is a community-based youth program run by the FACC. Our goal is to teach, explore, preserve, and embrace the Filipino culture through music, language, art, friendship, and family traditions. You don't have to be Filipino, just a Filipino at Heart.

Guro Jonabelle Mwamba, who also teaches our Tagalog and Bisaya Classes, will lead our K-5th grade students for 2022.

Our Cultural Group "Ang Mga Mananayaw" will also have Dance Practice starting on March 6 at 2:00 PM. All students are welcome, beginners and professionals. We have a full summer of events to prepare for and several private events. There will be a coalition of Dance Teacher's, BOD Esta Mae Ault, President Vivan Norman, Ate Nelle and so many more to help you prepare.

Mahjong and Game night will also return to the FACC. I have heard that our FACC **Ate Amparo, Ate Marites and Ate Nelle** are super serious when it comes to this beloved game. So, dust off your fancy hat, favorite dress and lucky charm...it's time to get your Mahjong on. Fear not, Mahjong beginners. If you ever wanted to learn the game of Mahjong, our Ate's will be there to teach you the game. In addition, we will also have a Poker Game, Dominoes and Sungka. If games are not your thing, then belt out a few tunes on our Karaoke Machine.

There is still more! The FACC, along with a coalition of several Asian Non-Profits are working together with the Denver Zoo, to Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month of May. This huge celebration is scheduled on May 14th and May 15th at the Denver Zoo.

There will be Cultural Dance Performances, workshops, community tents and so much more. To make this event happen, we need Volunteers. Young and Old, we need you! To Volunteer, please email Domingo Belen at Domingo.Belen@Faccorg.onmicrosoft.org.

Photos from February



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/6 1:00 PM MASKI PAPS

3/6 2:00 PM 1ST DANCE PRACTICE

3/19 BOD MEETING

3/19 GAME NIGHT

3/26 CULTURAL PERFORMANCE @ DPS

4/17 EASTER @ BAHAY KUBO

Building Bridges

Here we are in America, which is the mecca and melting pot of diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions. Diversity is one of the best things about our sovereign union. There are many different Non-Profit organizations that is working hard and dedicating themselves to learn about their neighbors and bringing people together and celebrate their differences. The Filipino American Community of Colorado is no Different. A mission for our community is to work on Building Bridges with the Community we live in (Edgewater), Non-Profit Organizations and other Filipino Organizations within the Great State of Colorado.

City of Edgewater has been an awesome partner, and by the way, they are next door to our beloved FACC. They have allowed us to use their parking lot, we volunteered for each other's events, they help publicize our events, we publicize and participate in their events, and they also have sponsored our events. We are so lucky to live in this great City of Edgewater and we will continue to build our relationship with the City, **Super Star Events and Communication Director Kalah Hardt**, and our community.

Over the past two weeks, the FACC had joint meetings with 2 other Filipino Non-Profit Organizations; **Philippine-American Society of Colorado (PASCO) and Filipino American Community of Southern Colorado (FACSC)**. The goal of the meeting is to introduce our Board members to each other and find out how we can support each other going forward. We shared our ideas, calendars and talked about our future working together going forward. If the schedules aligned, we could see our cultural groups perform together at the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration! We look forward to building bridges with our Kababayans.

The Building Renovations

The building is getting a super make over! **BOD Jeff Albright**, along with the rest of the BOD, has been doing our Spring Cleaning in February. We have been dusting, mopping, shelving, collating and of course fixing our Bahay Kubo. In the next few months, we will have a Fence, that's right a fence around our building. Our parking lot will no longer be a short cut through our alley way. Our building will get a refresh of a new paint job and our kitchen will finally become the Commercial Kitchen we always needed.

All of these Renovations and Changes to our Bahay Kubo could not be possible without our Grant Writer **President Vivian Egonio Norman**. She has taken days and months writing our grants and participating in Interviews. In addition, thank you to all of our Volunteers that used their time to work our Broncos and Rockies games. The money raised for these games allowed the FACC to continue to pay our monthly bills and additional Renovations! There is more work to do and we have the Team to make it happen. As our **Vice President Quentin Norman** like to say, "Team Work makes the Dream Work!

My new Family by BOD Esta Mae Ault

For the last few years, my title at the FACC has been "traditional dancer". I remember being mesmerized by the beautiful dresses that the performers wore when I was a kid, and my determination to be just like them. I have learned many dances over the years, and I am happy to say that I know how to do many of those dances now. But recently, I have acquired a new title: "Cultural Board of Director".

I was eighteen when I accepted the position. I vividly remember my stomach turning and constantly wondering if I could even be of help to them. I had just started college (technically still am since I haven't completed my first year), just gotten my first job, and barely had time to go to dance practice. Genuinely, I felt like I couldn't do anything to support the others. But since my time on the board, everyone has been more than willing to help me with everything. My heart is touched to see how kind everyone is, and the worry that once ate away at me is replaced with excitement and appreciation.

Initially, my first surprise was how the meetings were exactly like running a business. There're so many different variables that came into play, and everyone was using terms and phrases that I had only read in textbooks. But what surprised me the most is how much I enjoyed it. I was fascinated by it! It was like playing a game of chess and wondering how my opponent came up with such a remarkable move. I couldn't wait until the second meeting!

When I first came to the FACC, I was a child too young to remember anyone's face. And although I'm still just a kid, I have come to the realization that family doesn't have to be blood related, and I don't have to be anything spectacular in order to belong. These people who have fed me, hugged me, and made me laugh more times than I can count have become my family, and I am proud to say that I am a member of this spectacular team.



The FACC would like to wish a Maligayang Kaarawan (Happy Birthday) to our Members born in March.

Arlene Lipman, Jennifer Samuel, Cita Bael, Robert Barnstable, Tessie Hemschoot, Ryan Sangchompuphen, Donna LaVigne, Angie Binder and Alyssa Chapman.

Questions about the FACC, Membership or Donations; please email: domingo.belen@faccorg.onmicrosoft.com

