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April 2009

Volume I, Issue I

# Austin Balita

## AFAA GOING OUT OF BUSINESS?

You can't help but see, hear, and read about companies, stores, and banks going out of business almost every day. That seems to be the current state of affairs. Everyone is hunkering down and guarding against wasteful spending and always finding ways to be more prudent regarding their financial affairs.

However, for us Filipinos in Austin, the state of the economy should not be our only concern. Yep! In case you have forgotten, AFAA's current officers' term will end this year. What does this mean? AFAA is looking for new or renewing members to run for office or serve as board members for the next two years. If no one steps up to the plate come November, AFAA might just close shop, as I have been told, and vanish into oblivion. Dramatic words but sadly, it could come true.

Are we willing and ready to let AFAA "go out of business?"



## AFAA SPONSORED EVENTS LINE UP - 2009

- **April 5, Sun 3 pm - 6 pm: Easter Picnic and Membership Drive**. 3300 Brushy Creek Plaza at Cedar Park. Coordinator: Aurora Hillin @ Ph 422-6740 or [aurorahillin@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorahillin@yahoo.com)
- **AFAA Philippine Festival** Date and location TBD. Coordinator: Tess Abbott @ Ph 796-9757 or [tess.abbot@lcra.org](mailto:tess.abbot@lcra.org)
- **Halloween Party and Election of 2010-2011 Officers and Board Members** Date and location TBD. Contact Jing Franklin at Ph 736-4172 or [jingfranklin@yahoo.com](mailto:jingfranklin@yahoo.com)

## CONTINUATION... EVENTS LINE UP

- **AFAA Children's Party** Date and location TBD.  
Coordinators: Aurora Hillin @, Ph 422-6740 or [aurorahillin@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorahillin@yahoo.com) and Jing Franklin @ Ph 736-4172 or [jingfranklin@yahoo.com](mailto:jingfranklin@yahoo.com)
- **December 19, 2009 6 pm—midnight: AFAA Holiday Gala** Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. IH-35 Austin 78752. Coordinator: Tess Abbott @ Ph 796-9757 or [tess.abbott@lcra.org](mailto:tess.abbott@lcra.org)

## AFAA MEMBER'S 2009 TASK LIST

- Attend AFAA events in 2009— see list
- Send membership form and check
- Become an AFAA officer or board member
- Volunteer to help in one of many 2009 AFAA events
- Spread the news about AFAA events, goals, and achievements

## SURVEY SHOWS: 9 OUT OF 10 PINOYS WELCOME 2009 WITH HOPE



Manila, Philippines—Nine out of ten Filipinos are welcoming 2009 with hope, according to a survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS), a-recognized independent nonprofit, nonpartisan social survey institute in the Philippines.

For the third straight year, more than 91 percent of Filipinos look forward to the new year with hope and only eight percent enter another year with fear. The survey was

conducted from November 28 to December 1, 2008.

“New Year hopes are high across socio-economic classes - 92% among the middle to upper classes ABC, 92% among the *masa* D class, and 90% among the very poor class E,” SWS said in its statement..

“Hopefulness for the New Year slightly increased among classes ABC, from 88% in 2007 to 92% in 2008,” it added.

The SWS “hope for the new year” survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,500 adults nationwide with a sampling error margin of  $\pm 2.5\%$  for national percentages;  $\pm$  six percent for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao; and  $\pm$  four percent for the rest of Luzon.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: SUSAN FIFER

We welcome new members who joined the AFAA family in 2008. We thank you for your support and being a part of the AFAA community. By working together, we can instill our Filipino heritage to our children here in the US.

AFAA has numerous fun and exciting activities planned for 2009 and we look forward to seeing you at these different events. As always, we cherish our existing members and would love to hear from new members as well. Enclosed in this newsletter is an AFAA membership form. Please take a few moments from your busy schedule to fill out the form and send it back to us with your check and suggestions on how we can serve you better.

We welcome new ideas and energy in order for the cohesive Austin Filipino-American community to continue to grow into a more mature and successful organization. AFAA is comprised of dedicated and hardworking volunteers who pledge to bring you wholesome activities for the whole family. May we hear from you soon? Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Susan Fifer**



## LORDY, LORDY, GUESS WHO'S ... SWEET SEVENTEEN?

**Andrea Franklin**, a very special girl, had a very special birthday party last Friday, March 27. Jing Franklin, Andrea's mom, hosted the party at their lovely home at Onion Creek. In attendance were Andrea's high school friends from Akins, cousins, numerous aunts and aunties (Remember: you're a Filipino if everyone older than you, related or not, is an aunt or auntie), grandparents, friends of friends, and even friends' pets. A whole lot of cooking, eating, and chica-chica went on. Here are some pictures from that celebration.



*Say Cheese!*



## PRIMO SANG IN AUSTIN



Floyd Tena, James Uy, and Jon Joven of Primo, an all-male Filipino vocal trio, came, sang, signed autographs, sold CDs, and captivated the audience with their youthful good looks and charisma. But they're not just handsome faces—they can truly sing! There were some occasions, especially at the start, when their voices had to compete to be heard above the loud background music, but in those numbers when you can really hear their voices solo or in harmony, you can't help but feel proud of the musical talents of this young singing group.



They sang English, Filipino, Spanish, and Italian songs, from classical, to Broadway, to pop. Think Josh Groban and Il Divo and there you have it, Primo. Jon Joven has the most musical experience among the three. He sang on Broadway and won several prestigious musical awards from the Philippines and abroad. Floyd Tena was a soloist at the Ateneo de Naga Music Ministry while James Uy, Jon's younger brother, has done minor stage performances in the Philippines and in the US.



Dancers from Baila Pacifica Entertainment provided a very lively and entertaining dance numbers. Can you tell?

## SALTY LANGUAGE

Anthropologists speculate that salt has been around for 10,000 B.C. Humans from long ago realized that salt is an excellent preservative and it is a good medicinal treatment. It also figured in religious practice as a purifying agent. Salt was taxed, traded, and it became such a great commodity that the salt trade spurred the development of roads linking far-flung countries. Salt is still connected with roads—de-icing roads. It is still used as a preservative and in the manufacture of glass, wood pulp, detergents, and synthetic rubber. Eventually, the word salt became firmly entrenched in our vocabulary. We use it to talk about religion, money, philosophy, and as a figure of speech.

For example, we call friends “the salt of the earth.” We also encourage the gullible to take things “with a grain of salt.” Financial experts tell us to “salt away” a portion of our “salary” (from the Latin *salarium*, the salt allowance with which troops were sometimes paid). We lament that we troop to the “salt mines” (a figure of speech for going to work) every working day and yet we are not even sure if our bosses find us “worth our salt..” And finally, someone who enjoys his enemies' troubles so much is said to “rub salt in their wounds” to make the slight or pain sting more.

Excerpts from *Season to Taste* by Kent Oswald.



# Happy Easter

<http://www.afaonline.org>

*The Austin Filipino-American Association  
invites you to an Easter Picnic!!!*

**WHEN: April 5, 2009 Sunday from 3 pm to 6 pm**

**WHERE: Brushy Creek Lake Park  
3300 Brushy Creek Rd, Cedar Park, TX 78613**

**Directions (No Toll):** Take US-183N. Turn RIGHT on Avery Ranch. Turn LEFT on Parmer Lane. Bear RIGHT on Brushy Creek Rd – go 0.5 mile. Arrive at 3300 Brushy Creek Rd, on the RIGHT.

**Directions (Pay Toll):** Take US-183N. Take TX-45-TOLL E exit onto TX-45 TOLL E (Toll applies) – go 1.6 miles. Take ramp onto FM-620 toward FM-734/PARMER LANE (Toll applies) – go 1 mile. Turn LEFT on PARMER Lane (FM-734 W) – go 2.4 miles. Bear RIGHT on Brushy Creek Rd – go 0.5 mile. Arrive at 3300 Brushy Creek Rd, on the RIGHT.

**LOOK FOR CEDAR PAVILION!!!**

\*\*\*We request Each guest (family/couple/individual) to bring 2 dozen Easter eggs (any size) stuffed with candies for the EGG HUNT\*\*\*

We've got fun games for all!!!

## Potluck event

If your last name starts with:

*A-J -- bring pasta, pancit, vegetable dish, dessert or fruits  
K-Z -- bring meat dish (beef, chicken, pork or seafood)*

AFAA will provide cooked rice, drinks (bottled water, juices and sodas), plastic wares and napkins

For DETAILS and confirmation of attendance, please CONTACT:

Aurora Hillin @ (512) 422-6740 or e-mail [aurorahillin@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorahillin@yahoo.com)

Tess Abbott @ (512) 796-9757 or e-mail [tess.abbott@lcra.org](mailto:tess.abbott@lcra.org)





10901 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. B-206  
 Austin, Texas 78753  
 Website: [www.AFAAonline.org](http://www.AFAAonline.org)

**AFAA OFFICERS**

Marites "Tess" Abbott  
*President*  
 Betty Flores  
*Vice President*  
 Divina Fox  
*Treasurer*

**Committee Chairs**

Susan Fifer  
*Membership (Vacant)*  
*Public Relations (Vacant)*  
*Liaison Officer*  
 Rommel Corro  
*Sports & Recreation*  
*Sgt. At Arms (Vacant)*  
*Cultural & Entertainment*  
*Youth Dance Group (Vacant)*  
*Hospitality & Food*  
 Tess Abbott  
*Fund Raising*  
 Joy Knezevich  
*Editor*

*Cultural Shows/Programs*  
 Elias Lorenzana  
*General Counsel*

**Board of Directors**

Gigi Hobson  
 Vic Rosuello  
 Susie Kang  
 Jing Franklin  
 Kevin Barnfield  
 Martin Lizarraga  
 Aurora Hillin  
 Ray Morillo  
 Susan Fifer

**Austin Filipino-American Association (AFAA)**  
 10901 N. Lamar Blvd. B-206  
 Austin, Texas 78753  
 EIN 74-2495896  
 Texas Taxpayer Number 30010204896

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

*Get connected! Join and support the Austin Filipino-American Association!*

New Member       Renewal      NOTE: Check selection that applies.

Fill out the application form and mail including check or money order payable to "AFAA" to the address above. We also take cash payment.

\$25 Family       \$15 Individual      NOTE: Check selection that applies.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/s of child/children (if any):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* How do you want your Newsletter to be sent to you?  E-mail  Mail

\*\* May we post your picture on the web site?  YES  NO

Please indicate below what committee(s) you are interested to participate:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Recruitment | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Committee             | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Outreach   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication/Editor         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising         |

DO NOT WRITE BEYOND THIS POINT

\*\*\*\*\*

Payment received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date payment received: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check# or indicate if cash: \_\_\_\_\_



AFAA  
10901 N Lamar Blvd. B-206  
Austin, TX 78753

Website: [www.AFAAonline.org](http://www.AFAAonline.org)

**Get connected! Join the Austin  
Filipino-American Association.**

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**



Greetings! I hope you are all in good health and good spirits!

I realize that we are in the throes of economic depression and that it's getting harder and harder to become involved in community activities as these cost money and time which we may not be able

to afford. This is totally understandable, which is why I am very grateful for any support or donation that you give towards AFAA, including payment of annual membership dues (new or renewal) and attendance in our events.

In this newsletter, you will find the proposed line up of events for 2009. As always, we welcome volunteers to

help us coordinate these events (help in planning, contacting folks and preparing the site). AFAA needs committed volunteers to function. It desperately needs folks who will take over the helm – those who can perform as officers or board members!

So, if anyone is interested in getting nominated or if you want to nominate someone to become an officer or a board member, please don't hesitate to contact me. This is my last year of leading the association and I would very much like to see, come election in October, several nominations for all positions. That would be sheer delight!

**Tess Abbott**