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## Party in the Park

by Larry McBurney

Summer is winding down shortly which means we have concluded yet another successful annual picnic. This year's picnic was held on Saturday, July 27, 2018 at the Raccoon River Park in West Des Moines, IA. Many old friends and family helped celebrate Filipino culture together by partaking in numerous traditional dishes. We also welcomed some new friends, ranging all the way from California even!

The day began with clouds in the sky and the threat on rain on the horizon, but that didn't deter the faithful from showing up. Clouds gave way to spotty sunshine and temperatures remained comfortably throughout the morning and early afternoon.

In addition to our fabulous dishes, Kimberly Roberts and the Filipino Store provided a time-honored delicacy: halo-halo! With the support of the community, halo-halo was a smash hit and we hope to see our friends from the Filipino Store again at our future events!

FAS will continue to hold this event annually, so keep an eye out for our schedule coming early next year and mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event: the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Fiesta on October, 13, 2018 at Lakeside Community Center in Ankeny, IA!



### FAS Family and Friends

*Another successful picnic thanks to all of our family and friends! This wouldn't be possible without all of your support! – Photo credit: Daisy Houston*



### A Gathering Without Dancing?

*Not here! We always find a time and a place to cut the rug and get our groove on! – Photo credit: Daisy Houston*



### The Pig Returns

*Featuring a very special guest! And no, it's not our Sgt at Arms Richard Meador! – Photo credit: Daisy Houston*



### Fun Runs Rampant

*The goal of our picnic: FUN! Featuring Lanie Cross, Richard Meador, Larry McBurney, and Paul Smith – Photo credit: Daisy Houston*

# Celebrating Filipino Heritage in Style

by Larry McBurney

Our next major event for the 2018-19 year is the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Fiesta in Iowa! It was moved to October to celebrate Filipino American Heritage Month and is set to feature some of the best Midwestern talent in one spot: Ankeny, IA. Featured performers include local talent such as The Vida Sisters consisting of AnnaLyn and Bobbie Vida. Joining them will be another local artist Larry (Laurencio) Berengual. We may see these two talents join forces for one big performance, but you'll have to join us to find out! Hailing from Ames, IA to make a performance will be rising star and former American Idol contestant Joemari Felarca. We will also have Emily Catipon Pennings performing a Filipino cultural dance.

We also look to feature talent from outside the central Iowa area and the state itself. We will see cultural dances from the Filipino Cultural Dance Troupe of Iowa from Cedar Rapids and the Filipino American Performing Artists from the Quad City area. We will also have musical performances from Alyssa and highlighting our evening will be singing sensation Kayla. Kayla has been widely hailed across the Midwest with performances at multiple events and heralded by many as a rising star.

Along with our terrific performers, FAS will be hosting a fashion show highlighting some of the best the Philippines has to offer. Women will show off the traditional filipiniana while men of all ages will be rocking out in the traditional barong with some not so traditional styles. Make sure you stick around to check out the many different styles showcased!

Our hosts for the evening will be Paul Smith and Larry McBurney. They will provide the commentary to get you excited for the day's festivities and are sure to entertain between sets. Paul Smith is a member of the scholarship committee and is the author of the book *Learning While Working*. Paul will also be performing the American National Anthem to kick the event off.

Come out and join us October 13, 2018 at the Lakeside Community Center in Ankeny, IA which is located at 400 NW Lakeshore Dr, Ankeny, IA 50021. Come and join the fun!



*Mabuhay*

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Fiesta in Iowa**

Presented by:



**Celebrating Filipino American History Month**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13**  
**1 PM TO 6 PM**  
**400 NW LAKESHORE DR**  
**ANKENY, IA 50021**

**JOIN US AT THE LAKESIDE CENTER IN ANKENY**

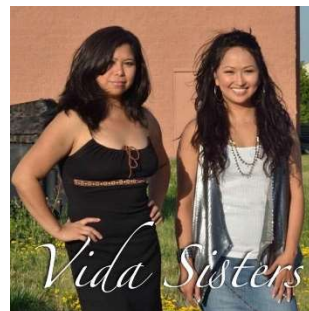
Authentic Filipino Foods | Cultural Dancing | Fashion Show | Coronation |  
 Native Filipino Showcase | Live Music | Cultural Education | Free to the Public

For questions or inquiries, please reach out to any FAS Officer at (515) 661-4925

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Teen sensation Kayla will be performing at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Fiesta in Iowa October 13, 2018 – Photo Credit: Ryan Tejero



The Vida Sisters, Bobbie and AnnaLyn Vida, are set to perform October 13, 2018 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Fiesta in Iowa – Photo Credit: The Vida Sisters



# Finishing the Year Strong: A Preview of the Finale

by Larry McBurney

The remainder of the year FAS will get into the meat of our schedule with major events coming up in October, November, and February of 2019. We kick off this stretch with our Filipino Fiesta on October 13, then 28 days later – less than a month afterwards – celebrate our veterans during our Honoring the Veterans event on November 10! Rounding out the 2018 calendar year will be a small get-together for the holiday season with our Christmas Party on December 15.

If you attended our Valentine's Ball this past February, we unveiled plans to revitalize our scholarship program. A few bumps in the road later and we're back on track thanks to our latest scholarship committee program chairman Steven Eckert. Steven, along with a lot of helpful insight from his co-chairman Paul Smith and committee member Loraine DeBoom, have the FAS Scholarship Program in full swing! Stayed tuned in the coming months as we plan to announce application criteria as soon as it has been finalized.

The entire FAS team wants to send our thanks to the community, our friends, and our family for all of the support as we kick off another successful event year! Stayed tuned as we release these newsletters quarterly direct to the inbox of all of our associates!



2017 Honoring the Veterans Program – Photo credit: Daisy Houston



2017 Christmas Party; the FAS team after the event – Photo credit: Daisy Houston



2017 Philippine Festival participants – Photo credit: Ryan Neeley



2018 Valentine's Ball; ready to go – Photo credit: Facebook

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**4th Annual Filipino Fiesta**  
Saturday, October 13, 2018  
Lakeside Community Center  
400 NW Lakeshore Dr  
Ankeny, IA 50021



**3rd Annual Honoring the Veterans**  
Saturday, November 10, 2018  
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33  
Training Center  
2501 Bell Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50321



**5th Annual FAS Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 15, 2018  
Holiday Inn Express  
8789 Plum Dr  
Urbandale, IA 50322



**5th Annual Valentine's Ball**  
Saturday, February 9, 2019  
Holiday Inn Des Moines  
6111 Fleur Dr  
Des Moines, IA 50321

# Closing Thoughts

by Luisita Dona Thompson



Many thanks to everyone that came and supported our annual picnic last July. It is my sincere appreciation to everyone that is continuously supporting the organization's goals and its mission. To our sponsors, associates, colleagues, neighbors, friends, and family: your support is what makes the organization flourish. I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to serve you and to be an instrument in bringing the Filipino American community together.

Last but not least, I thank the whole FAS team as they are the backbone of the organization. The never-ending work, preparation, and long hours of meetings/planning they all put into this are truly amazing! I am very grateful with the team as everyone brings different ideas to the table. Their passion and dedication to help our community is remarkable! I also would like to welcome the newly appointed Scholarship committee! They are doing an amazing job in putting everything in line in a very short time.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!

Mabuhay! See you all at the Filipino fiesta in Iowa on October 13<sup>th</sup>!



Mabuhay!  
Fall 2018 Edition  
Issue #1



Larry McBurney  
Executive Co-  
Chairman



Carmelita Heyne  
Board Member



Mercy Meador  
Board Member



Lanie Cross  
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June Gates  
Vice President



Daisy Houston  
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Richard Meador  
Sgt at Arms



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Divina Gerdeman  
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Melissa Eckert  
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Steven Eckert  
Scholarship  
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Paul Smith  
Scholarship Co-  
Chairman



Loraine DeBoom  
Scholarship  
Committee