

FACES Today

DECEMBER 2020

A monthly electronic newsletter of the
Filipino-American Community & Development Center of Ocean County Inc.
2014 Bayaning Pilipino Awardee

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KATHLEEN ROSE GALLARDO



I joined FACES when I was still in elementary school and it was a big highlight of my childhood. I enjoyed getting to learn more about the Filipino culture. I got to learn dances and songs and made friends who I still talk to today. As I got older, I've had a few opportunities to come back and volunteer with FACES. Now as an adult, I love talking to people about our culture and that I was very fortunate to learn about our history at such a young age.

I graduated from Donovan Catholic High School in 2015. In 2019 I graduated from Muhlenberg College where I graduated with a double major in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management and Media and Communications. Since graduating, I have been working as a Stage Manager across New Jersey and in New York. I was the recipient of the 2020 NJACT Perry Award for Outstanding Stage Management of a Musical for Mamma Mia (Phoenix Productions). Currently, I am acting as resident stage manager and co-owner of Morpheus Productions Company LLC.

Morpheus Productions Company is a theatre company founded by Kara Sadiang-Abay. After knowing each other for years, we put our heads together with other friends of ours and created a way to perform live musicals online. We are now an official company and have started doing productions online. During this time where theatres and gatherings are shut down, we are still able to keep the arts alive through these live performances.



From the Editor
Jamie Mariano

This Christmas, we may not be able to sing Christmas carols at the nursing facilities and apartment complexes in our community. We may not be able to gather for Simbang Gabi. However, FCDC did get creative and still managed to “meet” and have virtual events. FACES members and adults attended virtual classes led by Teacher Christine Lauguico to learn how to make traditional festive parols. FACES alumna and current NYU Tisch School of the Arts student Bella Villanueva, is working with current FACES members for their second virtual choir, this time, a special song for Christmas. Just like FCDC, 2020 has taught us all to be more creative. We had to be more creative in how we handle the work-family balance. We also had to be more creative in how we celebrate holidays, birthdays, and other special events.

One of my kids is adamant about forgetting all about 2020, to act as if it never happened. I told him that, rather than forgetting everything that has happened, he should learn from it. Let us all perceive 2020 as a teachable moment. There are so many lessons to be learned from a year such as this.

We learned how to live healthier by being more aware of our hygiene. Some of us dug deep into the past by finding more information about systemic racism and social injustices in America, to better understand other people of color. We learned more about the sacrifices that essential workers make every day, not just those in the healthcare industry, but in many other fields as well. 2020 has taught us to be more understanding of everyone’s situations, and to be more compassionate to those who are not faring as well as others during these difficult times.

2020 has taught us to look at life through a different lens, and to be grateful for what we already have, rather than attempting to obtain more. If we envision life as a time-limited entity – which it is – then perhaps we can focus more on the good than the bad. Perhaps we will come to realize what really matters in our life and what we can live without. That is my hope for 2021, that we see life for what it is: a time-limited entity in which we should focus more on what matters and let go of what we know we can live without.

God bless you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



President's Corner

Jasmine Alcid

December to Remember

FCDC has been very resourceful and creative in our activities this year since we couldn't have our normal educational and fun gatherings. We tried to bring laughter and joy to everyone, even in the small ways we could. It is my hope that next year will be a brighter year, moving forward to a better tomorrow. It probably won't be back to normal as we still strive to prevent spreading infection, meaning, no big gatherings are in sight. We will continue to evaluate the situation and plan events according to the safety of everyone. COVID-19 vaccine won't reach the general population until after a few months from now. Please continue wearing masks, washing hands, staying home and distancing from others. We only pray that 2021 would be kinder than what we had this year.

2020 has been a difficult year, there's no question about that. With all the problems domestically and globally, COVID-19, most of all, has punched our lives with sadness and hopelessness. Apart from the pandemic, it has been especially hard for me since the person I have known the longest in my entire life has left us so suddenly. My mom has joined her Creator a few weeks ago. This left me and my family in great despair, since it was so unexpected. We also believe she didn't have any conditions that would have led to her unforeseen passing. My family and I won't be the same since we lost our beloved mother, but we truly hope that this season would help mend our broken hearts. I would like to personally extend my gratitude to our FCDC Family for the amazing support at this difficult time. It was very much appreciated and a great comfort to all of us.

My Christmas wish for everyone is to have a joyous, peaceful and healing season! Thank you to all of our members and supporters! We just concluded this year's Giving Tuesday through Facebook and we were successful in our drive. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$16,000! Donors are found in this month's issue of FCDC Today.

Please hang in there. We miss all of you and hope we could be together soon! For now, let's keep praying and doing what we do to keep safe. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Giving Tuesday 2020 Donors



Babydahl Juliano ~ Christine Matus ~ Yolly Lanuzga Taylor ~ Nina Tubilleja ~ Lorna Clara Tejada ~ Scott Alcid ~ Cristeta Benter ~ Fred Mariano ~ Jess and Jasmine Alcid ~ Maryann and Louie Payumo ~ Raffy Ann Guerrero ~ Jose R Suatengco ~ FAMS (Filipino-American Medical Society) ~ Dominic and Angela Pamintuan ~ Rhett Yap ~ Myra Martin Alcid ~ Mijey Tejada ~ Lorna Alfaro ~ Missy Alberto-Suliguin ~ Leila Alquiros-Bucoy ~ Anonymous ~ Celine Lambino Villanueva ~ Will and Ivy Perono ~ Anna Reah ~ Sheila Alberto ~ Kalif Sals ~ Monette Munoz Tresvalles ~ Paulette and Leny Payumo ~ Maribel Patague ~ Glenn Jacobs ~ Vic Loterena ~ China Tejada McPartlin ~ Rowela Maapni Antioquia ~ Arlene Ching Tan ~ Benjamin Satterfield ~ Cate Suobiron ~ Marcelino Busacay ~ Lovella Nova Busa Cascio ~ Milagros Fernandez ~ Rene Ynaya ~ Ester Tambor ~ Lorena Bradley ~ Tricia Didomenico ~ EJ Alonzo

From the bottom of our hearts, FCDC wants to thank you for your generosity! God Bless You!



We are grateful for the donations received for the Philippines' Typhoon Relief

Will and Ivy Perono ~ Yolly Taylor ~ Dominick & Angela Pamintuan ~ Linda McPartlin ~ Jules & Cathy Suobiron ~ Rhett & Rusela Yap ~ Marilou Cruz



FILIPINO-AMERICAN CULTURAL ENRICHMENT STUDIES PAROL VIRTUAL CLASS – DEC. 5, 2020



Enzo



Jason



Adrian & Axl



Ava & Mia



**Kellan, Cooper, Jacob,
Kirran, Connor & Jayden**



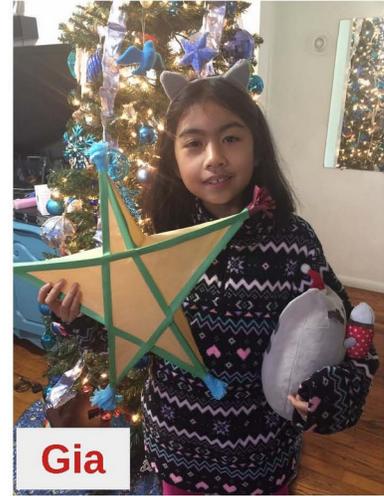
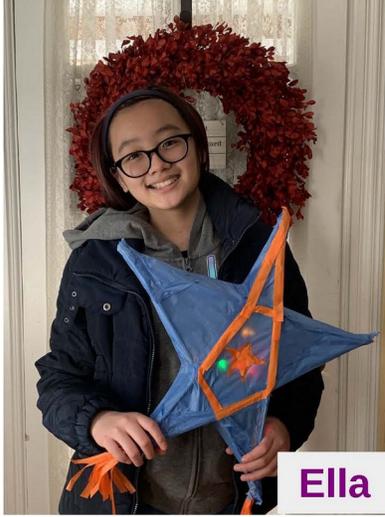
Alex



Susie, Alex & Jared

FILIPINO-AMERICAN CULTURAL ENRICHMENT STUDIES

PAROL VIRTUAL CLASS – DEC. 5, 2020



FILIPINO-AMERICAN CULTURAL ENRICHMENT STUDIES

PAROL VIRTUAL CLASS – DEC. 5, 2020



Matt & Bella

**Thank you
Teacher Christine**



JM & Janna



Joseph, Emma & Gabby



Emma



Thomas, Rosie, Kateri & Therese

A **parol** is a Filipino ornamental lantern displayed during the Christmas season. Parols are traditionally constructed using bamboo and Japanese paper, and are illuminated with candles, oil lamps, or carbide lamps. Modern parols can be made using other materials such as plastic, metal, and capiz shells and are usually illuminated with electric lighting. Its most-common form is a five-pointed star, although it can come in various shapes and sizes. (Wikipedia)

May Pasko Kahit may Pandemya

Ni Sisa Batongbacal

Kahit may pandemya at hindi hinihikayat
Ang magsalu-salo, magkantahan ng malakas
Sa *videoke*, magpalaro ng hilahang lubid,
Dadalaw at dadalaw ang awit-pamasko
Sa mga radyo at telebisyon, tutunog
Na *ring tones* sa telepono, kasabay sa kutitap
Ng *christmas lights* sa tuktok palupo ng Belen.

Huwag kalilimutang araw ito ng pagsilang
Ng Mesiyas, at payag man akong ipagpaliban
Ang karoling, paghalik sa kamay nina lolo at lola,
O pagdakip sa nagtatagong mga ninong at ninang,
May *video call* naman, kung hindi sapat
Ang *heart emoji* o *virtual hug*.

Sapagkat may pasko kahit may pandemya,
Ilang linggo na itong ibinabando ng usok
Ng nalulutong puto bumbong at bibingka,
Ng mabangong tsaang dahong avocado at pandan,
Ipinag-aanyaya na ng batingaw ng kapilya
Sa dalawang-dipang layong simbang gabi,
Inilulukob ng lamig ng hancing Disyembre
Sa mga umaga ng tamad na pag-iinat,
At pasko, darating si Santa Claus,
Ibubuhol ang laso sa mumunting handog
Ng pag-asa sa mga babad na pamilyang
Nawalan ng damit, gamit, kumot, banig
Sa tumangay na ipu-ipo, bagyo at baha.

Kahit may kalamidad o pandemya,
Hindi maglalaho kailanman ang ala-ala
Ng maniningning na parol ng ating paglaki—
Sa tanglaw niyo'y ginising tayo ng paulit-ulit
Ng mga yakap ni ama at ina, upang busugin
Sa linamnam ng pasko ng kanilang pagmamahal,
Kahit walang manok ang aroskaldo
At maputla ang iilang tangway ng ispagheti
Ng napakasarap nating mga *noche buena*.

Disyembre 15, 2020



Attitude Adjustment

DESIGN YOUR 2021

by Ferlie Almonte

Motivational Speaker, Author, Resilience & Confidence Coach

2020 is almost over. Covid19 pulled the rug from underneath us. It shook the lives of millions of people, and took lives in tragic numbers, leaving empty seats on tables of families as we celebrate the holidays. How do we numb the pain? How do we move forward?

There is no magic pill that will ease the pain and make us forget our loss. No magic wand can undo the tragedy this pandemic has caused. Many of us are still in mourning. How do we get out of bed and find joy again? First, breathe. Let us honor our emotions. Let us Be Kind to ourselves and take time to grieve. Each day as we learn to cope with our losses, we can begin to also embrace our reasons for living. We can honor the memory of those we lost by sharing our light by helping others rise above their adversities. A vaccine is here now to ease our worries and begin the process of rebuilding our lives.

2021 is around the corner. Let us end 2020 and start a new year with gratitude. Let us be thankful for what we still have. We are alive. Despite our moments of darkness, HOPE's flame is burning brighter than ever. God's Grace, and the love of our families and true friends give us reasons to keep moving forward despite our setback, preparing us for our amazing comebacks!

2021. Let us start with a clean slate. New Year. New Normal. New You!

We are the architects of our lives, careers and legacy! Our journey starts with mindful reflection of what we desire to create, identifying clearly what we want and understanding the deep seated reasons why it is imperative that we bring those dreams to fruition. Then, we make a blueprint. We accelerate our journey to significance when we begin to search for and surrounding ourselves with people who get our vision and lovingly support us. Also, we cement our success by being around smart and experienced people who can guide us on how to best utilize the resources and opportunities in front of us, and help keep us stay on track, as we take focused, audacious, heart-centered, and purpose driven courses of action every moment we are blessed with the gift of life.

We all deserve New Beginnings.

LET GO of the past and LET'S GO FORWARD with New Possibilities.

A Lesson I learned in Life:

Pain is Global.

Hope is Universal.

Resilience Ignites Solution.

WISHING YOU ALL A RESILIENT and MAGNIFICENT YEAR AHEAD!

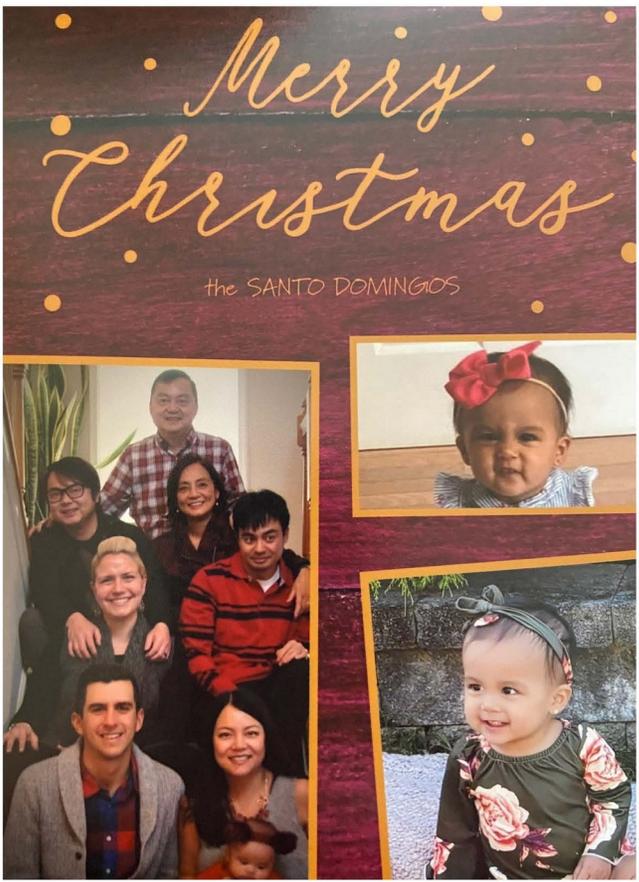
For more inspiring messages, visit FerlieAlmonte.com and follow Ferlie on social media @ferliealmonte

Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

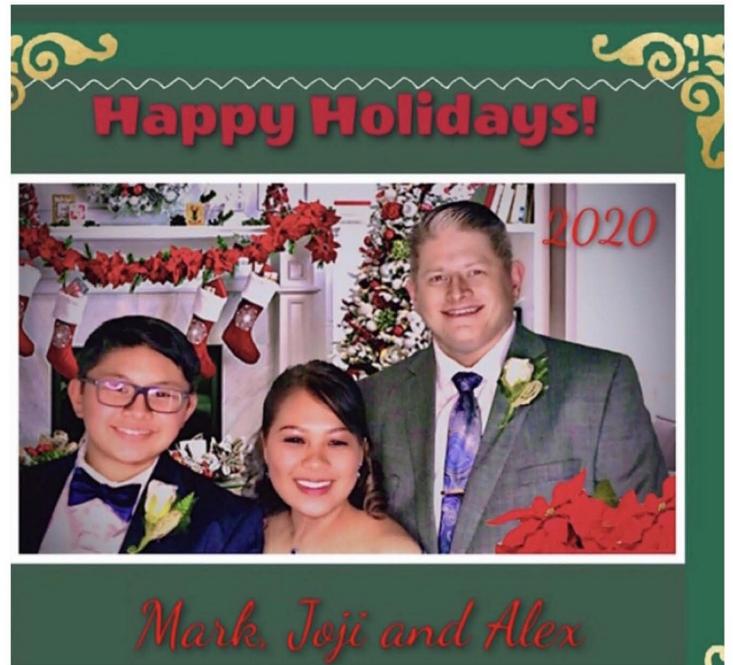
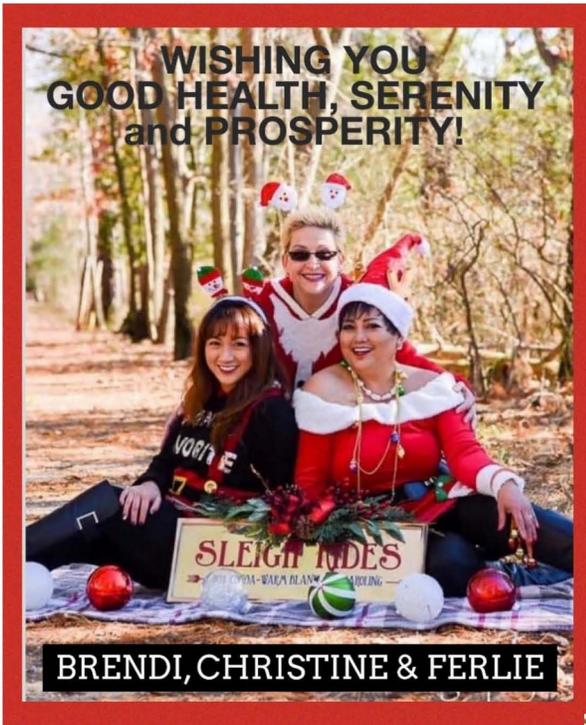
here's to
*Brighter
days*
and
*Happier
tomorrows*
happy
Holidays
THE ALCIDS 2020
jess, jasmine, gregory, gillian, grace



Yolly Taylor & Family



Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!



Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!



Tejada, Chong and McPartlin Families



Pamintuan Family



2020

*Peace. Joy. Love.
Blessings from above.*

Merry Christmas!
Jamari, Elyus, & Akemi



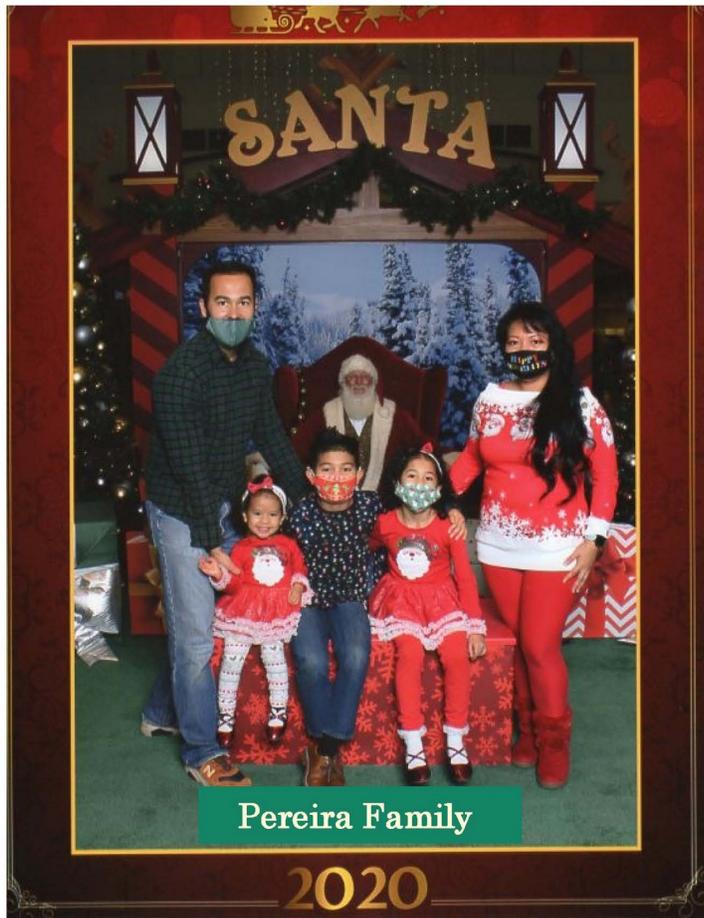
Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!



Jacinto Family



Emma with Santa



Pereira Family

2020



Payumo Family



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