



FCDC TODAY

Filipino-American Community &
Development Center of Ocean County Inc.
2014 Bayaning Pilipino Awardee
September 2026

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - TRIZIA ARPAY

I was born and raised in Cebu, Philippines, as an only child. Growing up, I was accustomed to living a simple and humble life. My childhood taught me to appreciate the little things, value family, and be grateful for the blessings that came my way. Those values have continued to guide me throughout my life.

I pursued my education and graduated from University of Cebu with a degree in Nursing. After college, I started working and building my career. I eventually married my long-time partner, and together we were blessed with two wonderful children. They have brought so much joy, love, and purpose into our lives. Building our family has been one of the greatest blessings and most meaningful parts of my journey.



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As our family grew, we began dreaming of new opportunities and a better future for our children. After much thought, prayer, and consideration, we decided to migrate to the United States. In 2022, we finally made that big step and came to the U.S. together as a family.

Moving to a new country was a major adjustment for all of us. We had to learn to adapt to a new environment, a different culture, and a new way of life. At first, we only knew a few people, which made the transition challenging at times. There were moments when we missed the familiarity of home, our relatives, friends, and the simple life we were used to in the Philippines. However, through God's grace, guidance, and faith, we slowly found our way and began to settle into our new community.



Family

One of the blessings we received along the way was meeting Ate Arlen. She introduced me to Ate Rica, who eventually helped me become part of FCDC. Being welcomed into this community has been such a meaningful experience for our family. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of FCDC and to meet wonderful people who have made us feel welcomed and connected.

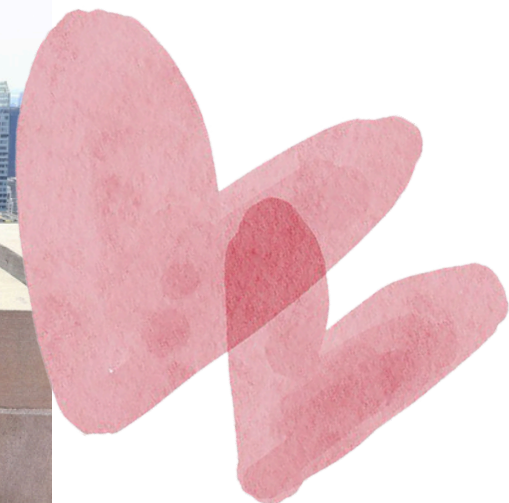
Through FCDC, we have also been able to give our children opportunities to discover, develop, and share their talents and skills. It has been wonderful to see them learn new things, gain confidence, make friends, and become more involved in the community. As parents, seeing our children grow not only in their abilities but also in their character and relationships with others is something we deeply appreciate.



We are thankful for the people who have welcomed us, supported us, and become part of our journey. We are excited for what the future holds and grateful for every opportunity to grow, serve, and build meaningful connections. As a family, we look forward to continuing this journey with faith in our hearts, gratitude for our blessings, and a desire to give back to the community that has welcomed us.



First Santacruzán with FCDC





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jasmine Alcid



As we welcome the beautiful Fall season, FCDC looks forward to a time filled with meaningful celebrations, fellowship, and opportunities to strengthen our community. Fall brings with it a renewed sense of energy and excitement as our members come together to celebrate our Filipino heritage, traditions, and the strong bonds that make FCDC a special organization. Among the highlights of the season will be the 25th Anniversary of the **FCDC Golf Outing** on the 7th of October, a milestone that celebrates 25 years of friendship, support, and commitment to FCDC. We are grateful to all our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who have helped make this annual event a success throughout the years.

The fall season will also bring fun and exciting activities for our families, including our Halloween celebration, where children can enjoy costumes, games, and fellowship with their FCDC friends. A special highlight of our **Filipino-American History Month advanced celebration** was a private screening of the movie **Forgotten Island** at the Marquee Theater in Toms River. The animated film featured an impressive cast with Filipino and Filipino-American talent, including H.E.R., Liza Soberano, Jo Koy, and Lea Salonga, among others. This special movie experience gave our members an opportunity to come together, enjoy Filipino talent on the big screen, and celebrate the contributions and growing presence of Filipino Americans in the entertainment industry.

As we celebrate the Fall season, FCDC continues its commitment to keeping our Filipino culture, traditions, and heritage alive and sharing them with the younger generation. We encourage all our members, families, friends, and supporters to participate in these upcoming activities and help make the season one filled with pride, community, and lasting memories. Together, let us celebrate who we are, where we come from, and the many ways Filipino Americans continue to enrich our community.

Filipino-American History Month

- Filipino - American History Month is celebrated annually in October across the United States.
- October marks the arrival of the first recorded Filipinos in the continental United States, when "Luzones Indios" landed at what is now Morro Bay, California, on October 18, 1587.
- The Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) introduced the observance in 1992.
- The U.S. Congress officially recognized the month in 2009.
- While often called Filipino American Heritage Month, FANHS emphasizes "History" to focus on the specific events, community struggles, and societal impacts of Filipinos in America.

Forgotten Island

FCDC's *Movie Night*

What a blast at the Marquee Theater! Thank you to all those who came to celebrate creativity, Filipino talent and cultural spotlight at the global stage. H.E.R., Lisa Soberano, Lea Salonga, Jokoy and Manny Jacinto were amazing in this animation by Dreamworks. FCDC is proud of this movie for the Filipino representation. To those who haven't seen the movie, you will enjoy the superb visuals. Watch it once (or more). Tayo na! (Let's go!).





FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY & DEVT. CENTER OF OCEAN COUNTY, INC.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

HALLOWEEN PARTY

& FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH FIESTA 2026

**24 OCTOBER 2026, SAT.
9:00 - 2:00 PM**

**WINDING RIVER PARK 1
RTE. 37 WEST, TOMS RIVER, NJ
ENTRANCE NEAR WINDING RIVER SKATING RINK**

BIKE FUN AT 9AM

**LINE GAMES TRUNK OR
DANCING POTLUCK TREAT**

**AWARDS FOR BEST IN COSTUME
AT 10 AM AND TRUNK**

FREE!

**RSVP 10/18/26
FCDCTEAM@GMAIL.COM**



APPLICATION

Please complete the following for each golfer you wish to register.

Name _____
 Name _____
 Name _____
 Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel # _____ Fax # _____

Golfers at \$175.00 each \$ _____

Sponsorships \$ _____

Total Participation \$ _____

☐ Payment Enclosed

Kindly Indicate Sponsorships:

Please make your check payable to:

FCDC

P.O. Box 1418, Toms River, NJ 08754

Zelle: fcdcocean@gmail.com

For more information call:

Dr. Mario Gallardo • 732-350-0404

Dr. Oscar Ortiz • 732-581-3566

Dr. Dino Espineli • 732-341-2211

www.fcdcnj.org

GOLF COMMITTEE

Dino Espineli, MD
 Oscar Ortiz, MD
 Mario Gallardo, MD
 Jose Ramon Suatengco, MD
 Chairpersons, Golf Committee



FCDC OFFICERS

Jasmine Alcidi – President
 Roderick Alberto, ESQ
 Jess Alcidi, MD
 Steven Gallagher
 Mario Gallardo, MD
 Jaye Jacinto, RN
 Christine Lauguico
 Sharon Ynaya Lichter, RN
 Lisa Martinez, RN
 Angela Pamintuan, MD
 Maryann Payumo
 Jose Ramon Suatengco, MD
 Lorna Tejada, RN
 Malou Tupaz
 Celine Villanueva, MD
 Rhett Yap



**Filipino-American
 Community &
 Development
 Center**
 of Ocean County Inc.

25 Years

**OF GOLF, FRIENDSHIP,
 FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**



**OCTOBER 7, 2026
 WEDNESDAY**

**PINE BARRENS GOLF CLUB
 540 SOUTH HOPE CHAPEL ROAD
 JACKSON, NEW JERSEY**

WWW.FCDCNJ.ORG

Dear Friends

Each year we look forward to seeing you at this event. We thank you for your support as we continue our commitment to serving the community. With your help we hope to make this event a success.

Sincerely,
 Mario Gallardo, M.D.
 Chairperson, Golf Committee

Oscar Ortiz, M.D.
 Co-Chairperson, Golf Committee

Dino Espineli, M.D.
 Co-Chairperson, Golf Committee

Jose Ramon Suatengco, M.D.
 Co-Chairperson, Golf Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

FCDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the Filipino-American community through cultural preservation, education, scholarship, community service and philanthropy. We celebrate our Filipino heritage while creating opportunities to serve, connect and give back to the broader community.

We strive to celebrate culture, to create a "HOME away from HOME" and to preserve our Filipino heritage in Ocean County.

The FCDC logo is represented by the Narra Tree. It is the National Tree of the Philippines. We take and embrace the joyful image to envision what it takes and most importantly, what it means to be a Filipino-American. As we plant our Narra Tree into the common ground of American soil, it is a clear reminder that our heritage has become a strong enrichment for American diversity.

MAJOR SPONSORSHIP

- ☐ **\$2,000 25th ANNIVERSARY PLATINUM SPONSOR**
 - Golf Outing Sponsor
 - Four Registered players
 - Name prominently displayed throughout the Golf Outing
 - Recognition in Golf Program (Back Cover) and Reception
- ☐ **\$1,500.00 Gold Event Sponsor**
 - Dinner Sponsor
 - Three Registered Players
 - Name prominently displayed throughout the Golf Outing
 - Recognition in Golf Program and Reception

- ☐ **\$1,000.00 Silver Event Sponsor**
 - Awards Sponsor
 - Name prominently displayed throughout the Golf Outing
 - Two Registered Players
 - Recognition in Golf Program and Reception

- ☐ **\$750.00 Hole Event Sponsor**
 - Name prominently displayed outside the green throughout the Golf Outing
 - Recognition in Golf Program
 - One Registered Player

- ☐ **\$300.00 Tee Sponsor**
 - Name prominently displayed on tee boxes
 - Recognition in Golf Program

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**October 7, 2026 | Wednesday
 12:30 P.M. ~ Shotgun Start**

Please register by September 25, 2026

\$175
 Per Golfer

Includes:
 • Green Fees
 • Cart
 • Prizes
 • Lunch
 • Dinner

PRIZES & SPECIAL EVENTS
 CALLAWAY SYSTEM
 LONGEST DRIVE
 CLOSEST TO THE PIN

BENEFICIARIES

TAX ID # 205840649

Proceeds support scholarships, cultural programs and community initiatives"
 • Dr. Renato Ynaya Memorial Scholarship
 • Foundation and FACES (Filipino American Cultural and Enrichment Studies)

CELEBRATING



**OF GOLF, FRIENDSHIP,
 FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**





FCDC Ensemble



We are looking for students and adults interested to play Filipino music in the FCDC Ensemble. Instruments include cello, violin, viola, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, drums, and piano.

- must have his/her own instrument
- must know how to read music or has personal instructor for guidance
- Filipino musical arrangement provided for individual practice in advance
- Musical arrangement is customized to the level of the player
- 2-4 performances per year
- no costs involved

If you have played before and want to learn Filipino music while having fun, we invite you to join us.

If you have any questions, please email fcdcteam@gmail.com.



***LETTER FROM THE
EDITOR
by Jamie Mariano***



It seems like we just celebrated the Class of 2026, and now students are already well underway in a new school year. Before we know it, Christmas decorations will be filling our homes. Well, considering this is FCDC, I'm positive some of us have already placed our festive wreaths and hung stockings by the chimney with care!

The holidays remind us to be grateful and show kindness to others. If you're considering doing a good deed this season, here are some suggestions:

1. Donate personal hygiene items to local schools. Many of them now provide these products to students who might be in need, no questions asked.
2. Make homemade Christmas cards for a children's hospital or nursing home. Give them to patients, residents, and staff.
3. Cook a meal for someone you know who might not have family around for the holidays. Better yet, invite them to your table.

Giving back does not have to be in the form of signing up for a volunteer organization or planning a fundraising event. Although it is great to be involved in community service projects, such as the ones done by FCDC, there are other things you can do in addition. Little acts of kindness can cause a ripple effect that touches the hearts of many! You'll never know how deeply your one act could impact someone's life.





ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

by Ferlie Almonte
Speaker. Author. Life Coach.

STILL BECOMING

In 2024, I had the privilege of judging bright young college students from different prestigious colleges and universities in New Jersey who were competing in the Miss Philippines Inter-Collegiate Pageant.

Recently, I found myself in the judge's chair again— but this time, for the Mrs. Universe USA 2027 Pageant, meeting 55 very accomplished women from across the country in the fields of medicine, education, business and technology.

Different ages. Different stages of life. Different stories.

Yet I discovered something beautifully the same.

Whether I was speaking with a college student just beginning to discover who she is, or a woman who has already experienced marriage, motherhood, career changes, victories, disappointments and reinvention, I wasn't looking only for beauty.

I was looking for substance behind the sparkle.

What do you stand for?

How do you handle pressure?

Can you communicate your ideas with confidence and authenticity?

And perhaps most importantly: What will you do with the platform you are given?

The younger contestants reminded me of the excitement of becoming—dreaming big, developing confidence and discovering their voices.

The Mrs. Universe USA contestants reminded me of the power of becoming again—that life experience can deepen our voices, strengthen our purpose and give us even more to contribute.

And that may have been my biggest lesson from both experiences:

There is no expiration date on becoming.

At 20, you may still be figuring out who you are.

At 40, you may be reinventing yourself.

At 60, 70 or beyond, you may finally be stepping into the person you were always meant to become.

A crown may recognize someone for a moment. But character, resilience, kindness, confidence and purpose are what make a person truly impactful and indelible.

Having been a pageant contestant myself, and as the winner of Ms. New Jersey Senior America 2023 and placing Top 5 at the Nationals, sitting on the other side of the judging table reinforced something I have long believed:



Life is not asking us to be perfect. It is asking us to keep growing.

Whatever your age, keep learning. Keep showing up. Keep using your voice. Keep becoming.

**Because dreams don't expire. Purpose heightens desire. And joy sets you on fire!
Keep RISING!**

Resilience Inspires Spectacular Endings.

For more inspiring messages, follow @FerlieAlmonte on social media





Twenty Years of Growing Together

By Dr. Jose Ramon Suatengco

As a founding member and member of FCDC's Board of Trustees, I feel proud as we mark our 20th year. I have seen how an idea rooted in community can grow through the commitment, generosity, and hard work of many people.

The Filipino Community Development Center began with a simple purpose: to bring Filipino Americans in Ocean County together and create opportunities to serve our community. Over the years, FCDC has grown into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, guided by its board and officers and supported by members, volunteers, families, and friends.

Today, that work takes many forms. Our summer camp gives children opportunities to learn, make friends, and explore through educational trips. Our youth orchestra helps young musicians develop their talents and share the joy of music. Our scholarship program supports students as they pursue their education. And our annual golf outing, carried forward from FAMS, brings people together while helping raise funds for our programs.

FCDC has evolved, as every living organization must. The needs of our community change, and each new generation brings fresh ideas and energy. Our responsibility is to honor the work that came before us while finding thoughtful ways to keep FCDC useful, welcoming, and relevant.

The resources entrusted to FCDC give us the ability to continue our programs and consider how they can grow. As a trustee, I see those resources as a responsibility to the community and to the generations who will follow us.

Reaching our 20th year is an opportunity to thank everyone who helped bring FCDC this far—and to invite more people to take part in what comes next. I hope our members, families, and friends will continue to share their ideas, volunteer their time, support our programs, and help us reach new members of the community.

I am grateful to have been part of FCDC's journey from the beginning. What gives me the greatest hope is knowing that the next chapter belongs to all of us.





Save the Date

PNANJ
OCEAN COUNTY SUBCHAPTER

Annual Thanksgiving Party



SATURDAY
NOV 21, 2026



6 PM



CLARION HOTEL
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

*Let's give thanks and celebrate
friendship, unity and blessings!*



SIMBANG GABI

MASS SCHEDULES

DECEMBER 12-20, 2026

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN LAY APOSTOLATE
OCEAN COUNTY • DIOCESE OF TRENTON

THEME:
*"One Family of Faith
under God"*



DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
SATURDAY DECEMBER 12 St. Justin The Martyr Roman Catholic Church 975 Fisher Blvd., Toms River, NJ 08753 732-270-3980 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Rev. Mark A. Kreder Choir: BLD Choir Coordinator: The Recruits	SUNDAY DECEMBER 13 St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church 250 Old Squan Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 732-840-1410 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Carlo Calisin Choir: BLD Choir Coordinator: Ortiz Family & Panerio Family	MONDAY DECEMBER 14 St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church 685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753 732-349-0018 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Scott Shaffer Choir: Tom & Marissa Miller Coordinator: The Campers	TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 St. John Catholic Church 619 Chestnut St., Lakewood, NJ 08733 732-657-6347 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Vic Magdaraog Choir: BLD Choir Coordinator: Laarne Wilde	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 The Parish of St. Theresa 450 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08087 609-296-2504 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Gerry Asirvatham Choir: Our Lady of Guadalupe Choir Coordinator: Agnes Villanueva
DAY 6 THURSDAY DECEMBER 17 St. Mary of the Pines 100 Bishop Way, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-698-5531 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Nestor Chavenia Choir: Our Lady of Guadalupe Choir Coordinator: Carol Dionisio	DAY 7 FRIDAY DECEMBER 18 St. Monica Catholic Church 679 W. Veterans Hwy., Jackson Township, NJ 08527 732-928-0279 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Alex Enriquez Choir: BLD Choir Coordinator: Karen Franco & Family	DAY 8 SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 St. Luke Roman Catholic Church 1674 Old Freehold Rd., Toms River, NJ 08755 732-286-2222 Rosary: 6:30 PM Mass: 7:00 PM Celebrant: Father Michael Kennedy Choir: Missionary Family of Christ (NJMFC) Coordinator: Payumo Family	DAY 9 SUNDAY DECEMBER 20 St. Maximilian Kolbe Church 130 St. Maximilian Lane, Toms River, NJ 08757 732-914-0300 Rosary: 5:00 PM Mass: 5:30 PM Celebrant: Father PJ Alindogan Choir: BLD Choir Coordinator: David Family & Reyes Family	

Special Announcement

The final day of the Simbang Gabi Novena Mass will be followed by our traditional Christmas Party at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Banquet Hall.

Everyone is warmly welcome!

Parents with young children are asked to bring one wrapped gift labeled with the child's name for Santa Claus.
Please also bring 2 bottles of soda per family and one dessert to share.

We look forward to celebrating with you and your family.

Merry Christmas & God Bless!



Simbang Gabi 2026
Ann David
Overall Coordinator
732-912-4146



Father Vic Magdaraog
Spiritual Advisor

ADVISERS

Carol Dionisio
Missy Alberto-Suhgun
Shiela Alberto
Joji Babuschak



908-783-2680



SHARE YOUR STORY
 Email our Editor-in-Chief
 Jamie Mariano at
jamiefcdctoday@gmail.com



New/Renewal of Memberships

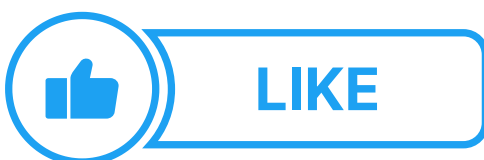
Aileen Dalocanog and Family
 Atty. Roderick Alberto & Family
 Koppin Family
 Inid Family
 Atty. Christine Matus & Family
 Latonio Family
 Hyacinth Valmorida

Pearl Hann
 Glenda Gatchalian & Family
 Sadsad Family
 Imperial Family
 Tupaz Family
 Taguam Family
 Uy Family



FCDC
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Toms River, NJ
08754

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To join us or renew
 your membership,
 visit our website at
www.fcdcnj.org
 Thank you for your
 support!