



FCDC TODAY

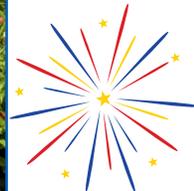
Filipino-American Community & Development Center of Ocean County Inc.
2014 Bayaning Pilipino Awardee
March 2026



Member Spotlight - Vea Arabella Nimanand



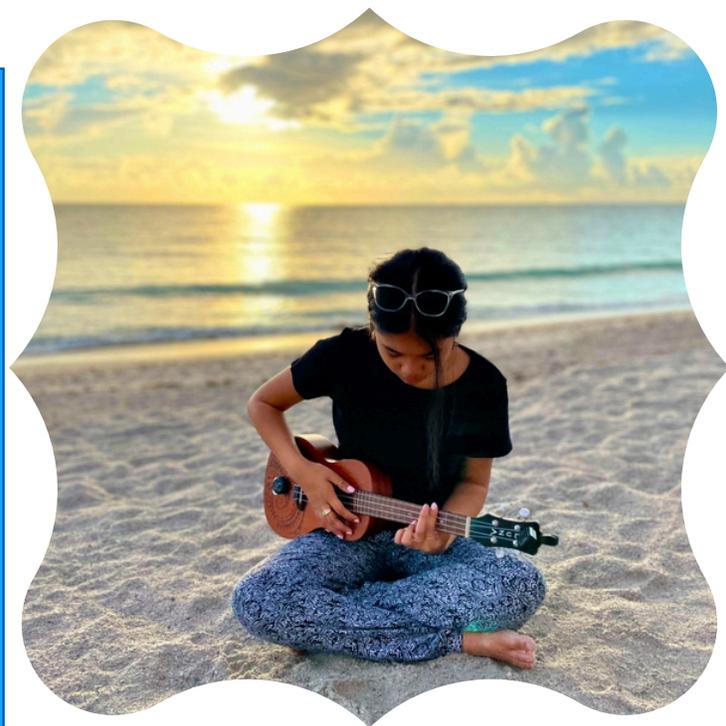
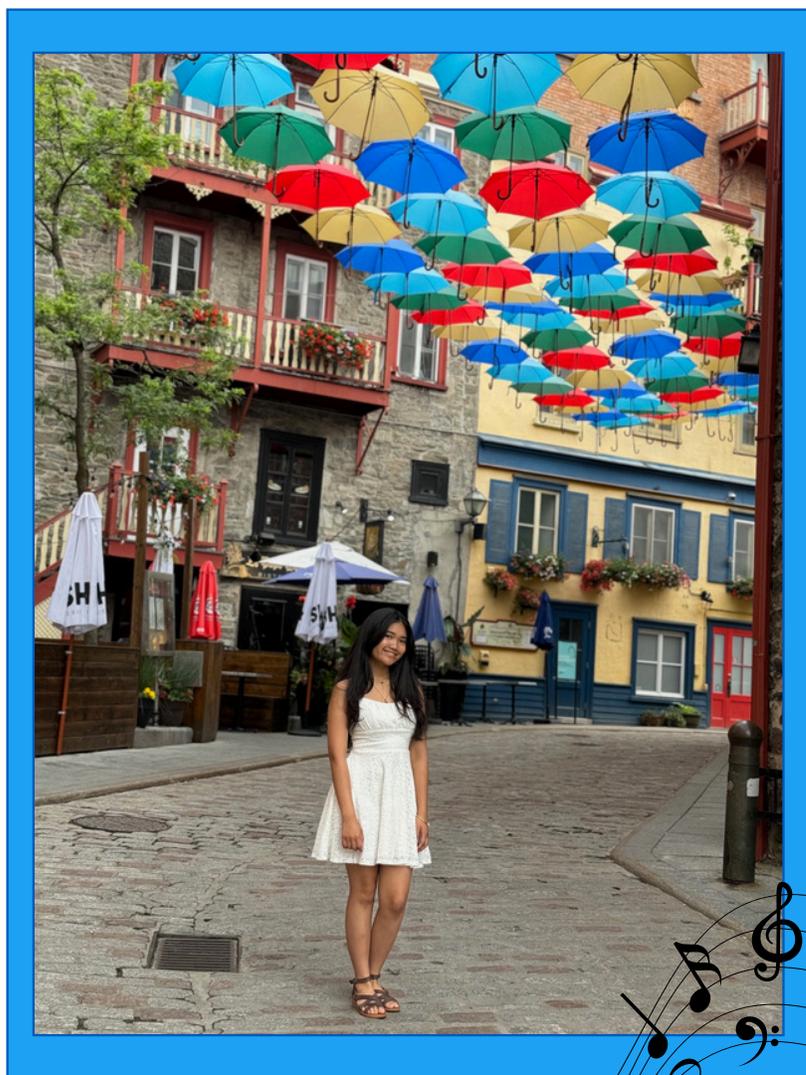
No longer a child but not quite an adult, Vea Arabella Nimanand is a 17-year-old junior studying in Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Sciences (M.A.T.E.S.). Vea Arabella exists in the high-pressure, exciting and sometimes exhausting world of modern adolescence, where they are actively defining their future. This journey also involves learning and looking into her Filipino heritage ranging from music, art, dance, science, math, and other Filipino transformative contributions to society.



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Vea's love for music is inherently Filipino. She started playing ukulele at the young age of 8 and progressed to electronic and acoustic guitar. She is self-taught; without formal training, she is capable of performing pieces that are new to her. In her spare time, she puts a lot of effort to hone and improve her guitar skills. She also enjoys playing volleyball and like any other teen - online gaming with friends and schoolmates in MATES.



As expected, as a high school junior, she is busy volunteering at the University Hospital of NJ and involved in school activities and clubs. She contributes her time and talent to F.C.D.C. Band/Orchestra/Ensemble. Vea encourages young talented Filipino-Americans to join F.C.D.C. to be part of fostering our Filipino heritage and culture.

Vea is a funny and outgoing teenager, yet focused and determined to reach her goals. She hopes and prays to enter the field of Biomedical Engineering and eventually take part of the world of Anesthesiology. The road ahead is unknown but everything is in God's hand. Vea says, "God's will be done."

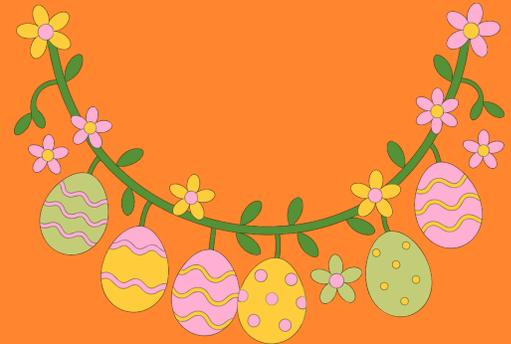


family
is
EVERYTHING





President's Corner by Jasmine Alcid



Spring is a meaningful season in the Christian calendar, especially as it coincides with Lent and Easter. Lent is a time of reflection, sacrifice, and spiritual preparation, mirroring the natural world's quiet transition from winter to spring. As the days grow longer and flowers begin to bloom, people are reminded of the importance of renewal—not just in nature, but within themselves. This period encourages individuals to let go of old habits, grow in faith, and prepare their hearts for the joy and hope that Easter brings.

Easter, celebrated in the heart of spring, symbolizes resurrection, new life, and victory over darkness. The season itself reflects these themes, as trees regain their leaves and the earth becomes vibrant again. This connection makes spring a time of excitement and optimism, where both nature and spirit feel refreshed. The blending of seasonal change with spiritual meaning creates a powerful reminder that after hardship and sacrifice comes renewal and joy, making spring a deeply inspiring and uplifting time of year.

I am thrilled this month as we emerge from our “hibernation” and shake off the winter chill. Please take note of our upcoming activities. Additionally, a reminder that annual dues must be paid to participate in certain events, such as Filipino Camp and field trips. March 31st is also the deadline for scholarship applications; unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late submissions.



FCDC ENSEMBLE
PRACTICE
APRIL 18, 2026
CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH 2-4 PM

SANTACRUZAN
MAY 23
SIGNUP ON
SIGNUPGENIUS

DR YNAYA
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
JUNE 27

FILIPINO CAMP
JULY 13-16

FIELD TRIP FOR
FILIPINO CAMP
ATTENDEES ONLY
JULY 17

SANTACRUZAN
SAVE THE *date*

LIVE procession!
When: May 23, 2026, Saturday
St. Luke's Church,
674 Old Freehold Rd, Toms River, NJ
Time: 2:00pm Assembly
2:30-3:30 Procession
4:00pm Mass
5:00pm Refreshments at the
St Luke's Social Hall
Hotluck: Sign-up genius link attached
For any questions please email
fdccteam@gmail.com




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F.A.C.E.S
FILIPINO AMERICAN CULTURAL ENRICHMENT STUDIES
summer camp



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S FUNCTION HALL
415 WASHINGTON ST.
TOMS RIVER, NJ

9-3 PM

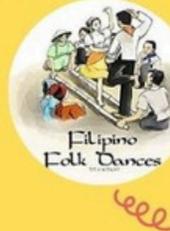


13-17
July
2025

RSVP
6/30/26
FCDCTEAM@GMAIL.COM

FREE (FCDC members)
Non-members email us at
fdccteam@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!




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

New Jersey has so many things to offer, and so does FCDC! As the weather warms up, I know that FCDC is gearing up for our traditional events and FACES Camp. As members of our organization, I hope that you are willing to volunteer or offer ideas for new events that celebrate our culture.

Personally, I'd like to become more involved again. Editing the newsletter is great because I enjoy sharing updates with all of you and learning about members in our Member Spotlight. But, I want to experience events firsthand like I did in the past.

Maybe some of you are like me -- at the stage where your kids feel like they've outgrown FCDC activities, and FACES doesn't suit them anymore. How do you stay connected if your kids aren't?

Reach out to a Board member or our President, Jasmine Alcid. If you are talented in a special area, maybe you can teach a lesson at FACES camp. If you're a good writer, maybe you can contribute an article to FCDC Today. If you're unsure how your talent or expertise fits with FCDC, I'm sure someone can find a place for you to contribute.

You have something to offer that is more than a monthly membership and a tray of food for a potluck. Let's get connected!

**Let's
Grow
Together**



ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

by Ferlie Almonte

Speaker. Author. Life Coach.

Why Image & People Skills Are the Real Power Moves for Today's Youth

In a world of TikTok resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and 30-second impressions, one thing is clear: talent alone isn't enough. The youth who win—college acceptances, internships, job offers—are the ones who present themselves well and connect with people effortlessly.

Let's be real... your image speaks before you do.

First Impressions Are Fast—and Sticky

Research shows it takes 7–10 seconds for someone to form a first impression. Even more striking, studies from Princeton found that people make judgments about competence and trustworthiness in as little as 1/10th of a second.

That means before you even answer the first question in an interview... you've already been "scored."

College Interviews: It's Not Just Grades

Admissions officers already see your GPA and test scores. The interview is about:

- Confidence
- Communication
- Authenticity

According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, over 50% of colleges that offer interviews consider them an important factor in admissions decisions. Students who present themselves with:

- strong eye contact
- clear speech
- polished appearance

...are far more likely to leave a lasting impression.

Job Interviews: People Skills = Opportunity

Here's the truth employers won't always say out loud:

85% of job success comes from people skills, while only 15% comes from technical knowledge (Harvard/Carnegie Foundation research).

And it doesn't stop there:

- **93% of communication is nonverbal (body language, tone, presence)**
- **Employers often decide within the first few minutes if they'd hire you**

So yes... your energy, posture, and vibe matter just as much as your resume.

Image Isn't About Looks—It's About Presence. Let's redefine "image."

It's not about being perfect or expensive. It's about:

- **How you carry yourself**
- **Your posture and confidence**
- **Your style and attention to detail**
- **The energy you bring into a room**

You can be "average" on paper—but magnetic in person.

And magnetic people get remembered... recommended... and hired.

The Real Advantage

Youth today are competing globally. The edge is no longer just intelligence—it's emotional intelligence + personal brand.

Those who develop:

- **strong communication skills**
- **confidence under pressure**
- **a polished, authentic image**

...don't just get opportunities.

They attract them.

You may not get a second shot at a first impression—but you can master it.

Because in today's world:

Your presence opens the door...

Your people skills seal the deal.

For more empowering messages, follow @FerlieAlmonte on social media



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



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08754

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