

FCSV Adobo Festival 2025 A Night of Flavor, Dance, and Community Spirit

BY DINNAH S. SAN PEDRO

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) hosted a spectacular Adobo Festival tonight, filling the Jose Rizal Community Center with the rich aromas of adobo, the warmth of community, and the joy of cultural celebration.

Opening Ceremonies

The evening began with heartwarming remarks by FCSV President Murray Navarro, who emphasized the organization's ongoing fundraising work for the Filipino Community Center. He shared the current status of the campaign and encouraged everyone to continue supporting this important goal.

The community then rose together in unity as Maria Bahoric beautifully led the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, followed by the U.S. National Anthem. Her powerful voice set a tone of pride and reverence for the night.

An inspiring invocation by Erlinda Aglubat followed, connecting the community to its shared mission through her heartfelt prayer. Immediately after, Mylene Simons and Carol Munar warmly welcomed everyone to the festival, setting the joyful and hospitable tone for the evening.

Special Guest Appearance

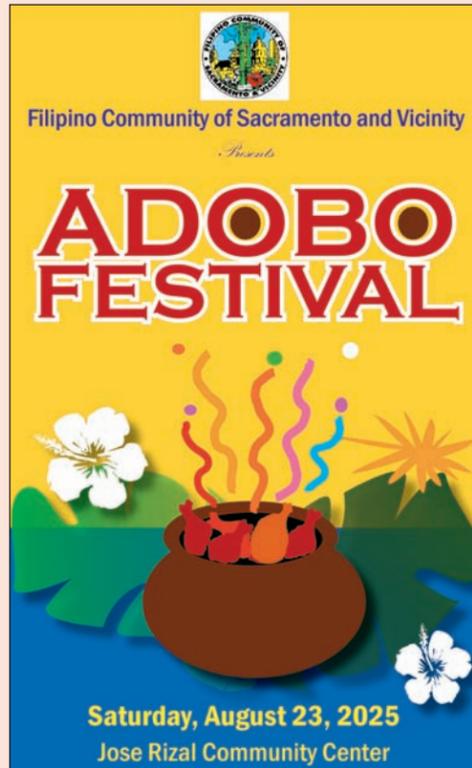
The event was further honored by the presence of Jimmy, representing the office of Sacramento Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen. He delivered a warm and encouraging message on behalf of the Assemblymember, recognizing the importance of cultural events like the Adobo Festival. Jimmy also presented an honorary certificate from the City of Sacramento to FCSV, commending the festival's role in uniting the community while promoting culture and fundraising for the Filipino Community Center.

Program Highlights

The celebration quickly blossomed into an evening of joy and entertainment. The KapitBahay Dance Group, the Golden Hula Ladies, and the Diamond Stars each graced the stage with their own charisma and elegance. Their graceful movements and joyful expressions filled the room with fun, laughter, and the spirit of cultural pride.

Community Announcement

Before the highly anticipated Adobo Tasting Contest winners were revealed, Board Member Edna Delos Reyes took a moment to announce FCSV's upcoming celebration of Filipino American History Month. With the theme "Bayan Ko: Celebrating the Heart of Every Region", she warmly invited everyone to participate in this annual October tradition that highlights the diversity, pride, and cultural richness of the Filipino community.



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Photos by Olive Jackson and Dave San Pedro



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Photos by Dave San Pedro

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Adobo Tasting Contest

The much-anticipated Adobo Tasting Contest followed, where talented cooks competed in categories judged by flavor, presentation, and overall taste.

- 1st Place: Arleen Usac of Arleen Delish, with her unique and flavorful Adobong Hubad, earning her the top honor of the night. She proudly received a 1st Place ribbon, a certificate, and 2 tickets to the upcoming October Filipino American History Month event.
- 2nd Place: Carol Munar's Adobong Pusit, one of her two impressive entries, which won her a 2nd Place ribbon, a certificate, and 1 ticket to the October event.
- 3rd Place: Murray Navarro's Longganisa Adobo, which earned him a 3rd Place ribbon, a certificate, and a certificate of appreciation, and also 1 ticket to the October event.
- Each contestant, including Roselie Crandall, proudly received a certificate of participation for their culinary contributions.

A Feast to Remember

Dinner was beautifully catered by Carol Munar, who not only served up a delicious main course but also generously donated half of the catering cost to support FCSV's ongoing building fund project. Carol, alongside co-chairperson Mylene Simons, worked tirelessly to ensure the evening's success.

A Creative Touch

The night's festive spirit was brought to life by the dedication of Dave San Pedro, whose creativity inspired the building and design of the Adobo Tasting Display Booth and the hand-painted Adobo Festival backdrop. His work was more than decoration—it was a reflection of the joy of sharing and partaking in the many flavors of adobo in all its richness.

Island Vibes & Music

Guests came dressed in colorful Hawaiian attire, perfectly in sync with the theme. The dance floor was alive with energy as music provided by Tim Duenas kept spirits high and feet moving late into the night.

A Community Effort

This event's success was a true testament to the power of community. Special thanks go to:

- Aileen & Raymond Usac of Aileen Delish Catering Service, for their generosity and Hawaiian-themed decorations that transformed the venue.
- Luz Daclan and her team, who joyfully welcomed guests at the reception area, greeting everyone at the door with warmth and hospitality that set the tone for the evening.
- FCSV President Murray Navarro, for his leadership and unwavering support in every project and fundraising effort.
- Board Member Edna Delos Reyes and Treasurer Mena Domondon, for meticulously tallying ballots to determine the adobo contest winners.
- And of course, to every volunteer, performer, and guest who came together in the spirit of unity and celebration.

Closing Remarks

The night concluded with heartfelt words from Dinnah San Pedro (FCSV First Vice President):

"Today's Adobo Festival was truly a flavorful success—thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the creativity of our talented cooks, and the joyful support of our community. Each dish told a story, and together we created memories filled with laughter, culture, and togetherness."

We are deeply grateful to everyone who shared their time, talent, and presence. Because of you, this event was more than just food—it was a celebration of heritage and unity."

More than just a food festival, tonight's gathering was a resounding success in reaching fundraising goals while strengthening community bonds. It was a night of laughter, dance, delicious food, and most of all, love for Filipino culture and tradition.

The FCSV extends its heartfelt gratitude to the entire Fil-Am community for your continued love and support. Together, we make every celebration meaningful—and every project possible.