

## **Information Sheet**

For many years now, Filipino women in America have been an intrinsic part of the Asian-American community and U.S. communities-at-large. They remain also an intrinsic part of the whole of the Filipino nation that exists worldwide. Their significance in the United States should be noted as Filipinos are fast becoming the largest Asian group in the United States

Today, Filipino women everywhere are stretching the horizons and possibilities of life both as women and as global citizens. And so the mission of the FAWN conference of 2005 is to bring together dynamic Filipino American women in order to inspire, motivate, and further each others' personal success and community service for the advancement of society and humanity.

The goals of the FAWN 2005 conference are to:

- Honor the spirit, leadership and successes of Filipino women in North America, the Philippines and around the world and inspire the same in others.
- Raise awareness about various issues that concern us in our lives--- self, relationships, work and the communities we are part of.
- Impart ways that have actualized growth and change for the betterment of others.
- Foster sisterhood through our commonalities and create understanding, respect and acceptance of our differences.
- Promote the connection to heritage and roots.
- Propagate and sustain various resources of networking.
- Establish a mentoring program.
- Bring together those with traditional, progressive and alternative thinking.
- Create alliances and collaboration between various Fil-Am organizations.

## Background of FAWN:

The FAWN Conference has been a bi-annual gathering for socially concerned and active Filipino women across various disciplines, careers and lifestyle in constructive dialogue. It is a tradition brought about by an organization once called the Filipino American Women's Network (FAWN). FAWN was established as a national organization in 1980, following the first National Asian Pacific American women's conference held in Washington, D.C. Today, FAWN no longer exists as a national organization but its vision of networking for unity have been carried on since, as various Filipino women's groups around the U.S. have taken turns to organize a FAWN national conference every two years in places such as Chicago, Washington D.C., Arlington, San Diego, Minneapolis, and Miami. The last FAWN conference was held in San Mateo in March 2000 by the Filipino Women's Network(FWN) and Filipinas Magazine.

And so NewFilipina, Inc. (NFI) is carrying on the tradition of FAWN and bringing about the next conference in New York City in 2005. With this conference we hope to honor these traditions of FAWN:

- To recognize and promote public awareness of Filipino American women of all ages, interests and abilities.
- To undertake activities that will help Filipino Americans acquire new skills or improve old ones to maximize their potential skills, knowledge and abilities.
- To act as a resource to one another through the establishment of a resource center, speakers' bureau and talent bank.
- To help reduce the barriers caused by racism and sexism in employment and other work-related areas.

FAWN2005 is a community service brought about by the efforts of NewFilipina, Inc. and Philippine Forum, a 501c nonprofit organization.