



**For Immediate Release: July 20, 2010**  
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***Bainbridge Island Celebrates its Cultural Heritage through  
The 2010 Strawberry Festival***

**(Bainbridge Island, Wash.)** Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> Islanders join together to celebrate the Annual Strawberry Festival, a centerpiece of Bainbridge Island's cultural, economic, and farming history.

The Filipino American Community of Bainbridge Island host its **Annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 19 at the Filipino American Hall located at 7566 NE High School Road** adjacent to Strawberry Hill Park. The celebration includes a Traditional Filipino Lunch and coronation of the Strawberry Festival Queen and King and their court.

This event brings together the island's Filipino American community to celebrate the role that Bainbridge Island's legendary Marshall Strawberry played in establishing a strong farm-based economy. **First brought to the island by Japanese farmers Bainbridge in 1908, the popularity of the Marshall Strawberry grew to a point where by the late 1950s, more than 225 acres had been put into strawberry production.** Filipino immigrants arrived in the early years to help the Japanese American farmers grow the industry. The farms also drew Native American workers from British Columbia, who intermarried with the island's growing Filipino population, forming what was later known as Bainbridge's Indipino community. A dedicated group of Filipino American farmers and their families also took care of the farms when the Japanese were sent to internment camps during World War II, handing farms back over to returning families in the mid-1940's.

Several generations of the Island's original strawberry farmers still live on Bainbridge, and celebrate the Marshall's role in their cultural heritage through the Annual Strawberry Festival.

**Experience a uniquely Bainbridge celebration for yourself, Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Filipino American Community Hall , 7566 NE High School Road, Bainbridge Island. Luncheon served from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. 2010 Royal Court Coronation and Philippine Cultural Dances 1 – 3 p.m.** Lunch includes traditional Filipino dishes and the famous Strawberry Delight dessert. Tickets \$10/person, \$35/family of four or more. The royal court will be entertained by the Filipino Traditional Folk dancers. The event is open to the public. More info call: 206-412-3175, or email [bifilamcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:bifilamcommunity@gmail.com).

The Bainbridge Island Downtown Association (BIDA) seeks to promote downtown Winslow as a place where the Island can gather and enjoy what truly makes our community special. Since 1998, Bainbridge Island Downtown Association has been recognized as an accredited Main Street™ Program by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, contact the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association at 206-842-2982, or visit [www.bainbridgedowntown.org](http://www.bainbridgedowntown.org)