

## Judy Grace Pasion Mecaller

Judy Grace Mecaller was born in Metro Manila, Philippines in July 10, 1962 to Feliza and Ignacio Pasion. Both of Judy's parents were public school teachers in the Philippines. Her father, Ignacio Pasion, took another degree in accounting to better provide for the financial needs of a growing family. Judy is the fourth out of 6 children. In search of a better opportunity for their children, the Pasion family immigrated to the United States in 1973 and settled first in Chicago. When their employer moved their headquarters to Colorado in 1975, they were offered to relocate. In Colorado, they found an environment that was conducive to raising a family and have made this state their home.

Judy went to Mrachek Middle School and finished her high school education at Smoky Hill High School in 1982. Deeply focused and with determination, she immediately went to the University of Colorado in Denver. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Engineering Degree in just four years and was a member of the National Honor Society.

She is currently employed as a System Programmer/Analyst at Avaya Company since the year 2000.

Her involvement in the Filipino-American community started in 1998 when she was invited to participate in the dance troupe of the Philippine American Society of Colorado (PASCO). At that time, she was interested in knowing her cultural heritage as she was starting her own family and she wanted her two daughters to learn about the Philippine culture since she herself did not know much about her own heritage having left the Philippines when she was only 11 years old. At that time, the idea of multiculturalism was not a popular subject among the general public, let alone in the minds of the youth. She was determined not to have her daughters feel the shame nor resentment of being someone of different ethnic origin. Her wish for her daughters had been fulfilled; both of them had been active in the cultural scene of PASCO. Her oldest daughter Jennifer was a cultural dancer and later on became a Youth Board of Director. Her second daughter Erin followed her sister's footsteps and currently one of the dancers of PASCO.

Her just started as a cultural dancer but slowly she accepted more responsibilities to help out with the different projects in the community. Not long after she became a board member and was elected as Vice-President of Cultural Affairs from 2003-2008. Although no longer in the leadership position of PASCO, she continued to be active in all PASCO's activities. She volunteered to be a member of the Planning Committee for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PASCO which was held last August 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. Commendably, she has maintained her presence in the community as an advocate and fierce supporter of the arts as a medium to educate the general public about the beauty of our culture and heritage.