



# KA'AKBAY

JANUARY TO JUNE  
2019

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES IN NEW YORK

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## Message on the Occasion of 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Philippines



I am one with the Filipino people in commemorating the **Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.**

A hundred and twenty-one years has passed since our forefathers bound their fates, their lives and their fortunes to proclaim the independence of the Filipino people.

It was the most significant event in our country's history. Not only did we put an end to more than three centuries of subservience but we also resolved to determine the course of our own destiny as a nation.

But the freedom we achieved back then was not without cost. The tree of liberty blossomed on these lands because it was nourished by the sweat and blood of our patriots, heroes and martyrs.

Let us commit ourselves to ensure that their sacrifices have not been in vain and that their dream of a truly independent Philippines - whose people live freely in a secure, stable and prosperous society - will be achieved within our lifetimes.

May we have a solemn and meaningful observance.

**RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**  
President

## PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK



**KALAYAAN 2019**

**TAPANG NG BAYAN, MALASAKIT SA MAMAMAYAN**



## Message on the 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence

**Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. , Secretary Foreign Affairs**



On behalf of the women and men of the Department of Foreign Affairs, I greet all Filipinos in every corner of the world an auspicious celebration of the 121st anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

As we remember our heroes who fought for our independence and paid the ultimate price for the freedom that we enjoy today, so we are reminded of our duty, in fact our honor, to protect and preserve Filipino freedom until the end of time.

Halfway through the term of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, let us recall "*tapang at malasakit*" - courage and compassion—his campaign battle cry. It is the theme for this year's celebration: "*Kalayaan 2019: Courage of the Nation, Compassion for the People.*"

These are the values of daily life the President has writ large in his governance to serve our countrymen, whatever their station in life may be, and wherever they may be in the world. These are also the values that sustain the resolve of the Government to beat corruption, criminality, illegal drugs, and other social ills. They are manifest in the political stability and economic progress that we doubtless enjoy today.

Courage and Compassion are also what our dedicated personnel of the Philippine foreign service demonstrate, when we vigorously pursue our independent foreign policy, when we work with other nations to benefit our country and the world, when we protect the dignity of our motherland in the international community, and when we unselfishly help our fellow Filipinos in distress.

Courage, as they say, is not the absence of fear, but to act in spite of such fear. Our foreign service is confronted with a myriad of daunting challenges, but we push and strive, as with the President and the whole Government, to serve our people with all our might with compassion. For they deserve no less, they who sacrifice each day, too.

Today, as in days to come, it is my hope that we - those in the foreign service, overseas Filipinos, and each Filipino for that matter - will all continue to work together, with courage and compassion, to overcome our struggles, in order to uplift our families, to secure and better our communities, and to unite for the progress of our country.

Have a meaningful and joyful celebration of our *Araw ng Kalayaan. Mabuhay!*

**TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.**  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

# PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019







## Fil-Am Community News

### Consulate General in New York Hosts 5th Fil-Am General Assembly

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal welcomed the leaders of the Filipino-American community representing Filipino-American organizations in the US northeast at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held at the Philippine Center New York's Kalayaan Hall on 09 February 2019.

Fil-Am leaders from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York participated in the annual event which served as the venue for them to be apprised on the Consulate's calendar of activities, programs and services for 2019. Consul General Cristobal introduced the Consulate's projects and calendar for the year and gave a report on the Consulate's activities last year. He highlighted new projects such as academe networking, women entrepreneur's forum, business and career networking event, workshops on Leadership and Management for the Fil-Am community organizations, and Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar for newly arrived Filipino immigrants. He encouraged the Filipino community to support the Consulate's annual flagship projects such as the Consular outreach services, Know Your Rights seminars, Filipino Restaurant Week, VIP Tour, Paaralansa Konsulado, and Sinehan sa Summer, among others. The Consul General also reminded members of the Filipino community to exercise their right to vote during the Philippine elections, stressing that Overseas Voting ran from April 13 to May 13.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (front center) together with the leaders and members of the 85 Fil-Am organizations represented at the 2019 General Assembly.

Senior Trade Representative Nicanor Bautista of the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in New York, Tourism Attaché Susan Del Mundo of the Philippine Department of Tourism Office in New York, Member Services Officer Michael Azucena of Pag-Ibig Fund, and Welfare Officer Josephine Sanchez-Tobia of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) were also present and gave updates on their agencies' respective programs and services for the year.

Jersey City Council President Rolando Lavarro, in his remarks to the Assembly, related how, as a Filipino, he got involved in politics. He expressed his readiness to assist members of the Filipino community in Jersey City. With the Filipino community being one of the biggest immigrant groups in Jersey City, he said that the Filipino community could play a significant role in community building.

True to its continuing theme "Connecting and Collaborating for Change," the General Assembly's highlight was the breakout sessions held in the afternoon, where the participating organizations were divided into three groups, with topics assigned to each group such as inspiring engagement with young Filipino-Americans, broadening involvement in local community building and socio-political processes, and strengthening linkages and collaboration with the Consulate. Within their respective group, each organization was able to share experiences on the topic assigned, had constructive discussions among themselves, and were able to come up with specific programs, activities, and projects that they can collaborate on.

Event partners PNB New York, GMA Pinoy TV, and Philippine Airlines, were present and gave updates on their company's new services available to the Filipino community. GMA Pinoy TV's Grace Labaguis presented a GMA network's video dubbed as "Sama-samanating 'Pusuanang Totoo'" which is the network's campaign for safeguarding the ballot and delivering truthful, accurate and comprehensive coverage of the forthcoming elections. Philippine Airlines shared the news that the flag carrier will soon have a daily Manila-New York-Manila flight and raffled off a round-trip ticket to the Philippines. Filipino-American singer Angel Ram had the participants dancing as she rendered an upbeat version of Lionel Richie's "Say You, Say Me" and "All Night Long."

This year's General Assembly drew nearly 170 participants representing 85 Filipino-American organizations in the US northeast region.



During breakout sessions, Consul Arman Talbo facilitates discussions on inspiring engagement with young Filipino-Americans.



Bea Martin of Kabataan Alliance and Francis Miranda of Forum for Wholistic Development Media report on the group's collaborations.



During breakout sessions, Deputy Consul General facilitates discussions on broadening involvement in local community building and socio-political processes.



## Fil-Am Community News

### Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray Meets the Filipino-American Community in New York

Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Elisa Mangayon Gray received a warm welcome from Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and the Filipino-American community in the US Northeast on 4 February 2019 at the Philippine Center.

The visit of Ms. Gray started with a call on Consul General Cristobal where he praised Miss Universe for achieving another milestone for the Philippines and conveyed his good wishes for the success of her advocacies in providing free education and scholarships for disadvantaged children in Manila and in the prevention and education of HIV-AIDS.

Catriona remembered the send-off event for her hosted by the Philippine Consulate when she participated in the Ms. World pageant and thanked the Consul General for the continuous support and the opportunity to meet and greet the Filipino-American community.

The call was followed by a press conference with the Filipino-American media where Catriona eloquently had candid exchange of stories about her preparations for becoming Miss Universe, her plans during her reign, and her humanitarian and giving back to the community initiatives.

"I want to be remembered as a Miss Universe who really had advocacy at her core", said Catriona. She said she would look back to her year as Ms. Universe and say she did a good job if she had an impact in the community.

The Meet and Greet was the first opportunity after her win to address the Filipino-American Community. With a full house attendance, Catriona met the community with grace and charm and shared with them moments of pride, honor and joy particularly during the photo-opportunity.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (Right) welcomes Ms. Universe 2018 Catriona Gray at the Philippine Center on 4 February 2019. In the courtesy call were Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate (Left) and Ms. Esther Swan, Director, Miss Universe Organization.



Ms. Universe 2018 Catriona Gray gamely joins the Filipino-American community in New York on 4 February 2019.



Groupie at the Lobby of the Philippine Center after the formal event (photos courtesy of BoyetLoverita)

### Coco Melody Design Maven Rodolfo "Puey" Quiñones Jr., Pays A Courtesy Call On The Consul General



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal welcomes Filipino fashion designer, Rodolfo "Puey" Quiñones Jr. to the Philippine Consulate.



Some of the gowns displayed at CocoMelody's pop-up store in Bowery.

Confirming once again how Filipino creative leadership has gone global, Filipino fashion designer Rodolfo "Puey" Quiñones Jr. paid a courtesy call on Consul General Claro S. Cristobal on 27 March 2019 and shared about his journey through the competitive yet exhilarating world of fashion.

Known for his embroidery, draping, and hand-beading, "Puey" as he is popularly called, is currently creative director and Chief Operating Officer for US operations of *CocoMelody*, a Los Angeles-based bridal brand. On 21 March 2019, Puey found himself in New York once again to host a reception to unveil CocoMelody's pop-up store at the Bowery, in the lower east side of Manhattan. This was followed by a mini runway show to display some of the brand's exquisite gowns. Puey's aesthetic is clearly visible in the collection.

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## Fil-Am Community News

### Filipino Designers Showcase Design, Creativity and Tourism at the NYFW Bridal Fashion 2019 in New York



(R-L) Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Albert Andrada, Gina Reyes, Christine May Daguno, Barge Ramos, and Consul Arman R. Talbo during the call of the featured designers and Neocolors officials on Consul General Cristobal at the Philippine Center on 10 April 2019.

Renowned Filipino designers Albert Andrada and Barge Ramos called on Consul General Claro S. Cristobal on 10 April 2019 ahead of their fashion show and exhibit in New York.

The show, **Fabulous Philippines: a Perfect Wedding Destination**, is an official entry to the New York Fashion Week's Bridal 2019 and will be held on 13 April 2019 at the Landmark on the Park. Before the fashion show, an exhibition of gowns designed by Andrada and Ramos, including the iconic royal blue gown worn by Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach, will also be held at the Philippine Center Lobby from 11-12 April.

(Continued from page 4... Rodolfo "Puey" Quiñones Jr.)

As a proud Filipino designer, Puey wishes to use indigenous Philippine textiles. However, linking designers to suppliers, who could provide fabrics regularly, and of consistent quality, could sometimes be a challenge. Consul General Cristobal therefore suggested tapping the extensive network of the **Piña-Seda** program of the National Museum of the Philippines. Piña-Seda (pineapple and silk), as known to

Filipinos, is a luxurious woven fabric reserved for clothes used on special occasions such as weddings, balls, or other formal events.

Puey will soon have a couture show in Los Angeles, and will be participating in New York Fashion Week in September.

(Left photo) Model wearing a Puey Quiñones design at the CocoMelody's pop-up store.



Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro with Puey Quiñones during the launch of CocoMelody's pop-up store.



The three-day event will be a fusion of Filipino-made masterworks of handwoven fabrics and intricate lifestyle items. According to Christine May Daguno and Gina Reyes of Neocolors International which organized the events, Fabulous Philippines is not only a fashion show but a tourism and lifestyle event focusing on the development, marketing, and promotion of the Philippines as a perfect wedding destination, as well as a celebration of the creativity and style of Filipino designers.

Albert Andrada's bridal collection is a mix of luxurious fabrics like silk, lace and jusi and his embroidery is inspired by the intricate "*solihya*" technique. Barge Ramos' Perfume and Incense, on the other hand, is a 25-piece collection of handwoven fabrics, embroidery, and hand painting.

Consul General Cristobal congratulated Andrada, Ramos, and Neocolors for bringing the Philippines and the creativity and design of Filipinos to the New York Fashion Week.

### Intuitive Artist, Thomas Aquino, Features His Art at the Prestigious Art Expo New York

Considering the enormous wealth of talent the Philippines has, it is no surprise that the works of art of a homegrown talent were among those featured in the prestigious *Artexpo New York*, an annual fine art trade show, which was held in Pier 90 from 04 to 07 April 2019.

As his paintings of modern art echoes the style of Pablo Picasso, natural-born Filipino, Thomas Aquino, who is now an Austrian citizen, is known in Vienna as "Tommy Picasso Aquino." While he may be known more for his modern art, Mr. Aquino actually paints in various styles. Proud of his Filipino roots, Mr. Aquino showed Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro a coffee table book and lithographs of more of his paintings, which harken back to old world Philippine themes of picturesque rural landscapes and cockfighting. As an intuitive artist, Mr. Aquino says that he gets inspiration from his dreams. Mr. Aquino has featured his paintings in Busan, London, and Shanghai. Los Angeles will be his next art destination.



Vice Consul Tanya Faye Ramiro visits Thomas Aquino's booth at the prestigious Art Expo New York at Pier 90, New York City's "art and design pier."



Mr. Thomas Aquino stands in front of some of his works of art, while pointing at his scheduled "Meet the Artist" where art enthusiasts and fellow artists could learn more about his journey as an artist (Photo by NYPCG).



## Fil-Am Community News

### Philippine Consulate General Hosts Fil-Am Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in NYC



(L-R) Women entrepreneurs Carla Caramat, Jeanne Grey, Ivie Joy, and Mally Roncal during a panel discussion moderated by Ledy Almadin (far right). (Photo by NYPCG)



(L-R) The Consulate's Margarita Manubay, Olivia Osias-Magpile, Fil-Am entrepreneurs Ivie Joy, Mally Roncal, Ledy Almadin, Carla Caramat, Jeanne Grey, and Consul Arman Talbo with the participants of the Fil-Am Women's Entrepreneurship Forum held in New York. (Photo by Robby Manubay)

The Philippine Consulate General organized the first-ever Fil-Am Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in New York on 27 April 2019 at the Philippine Center.

The forum served as a venue where aspiring Filipina entrepreneurs met, engaged, and networked with four inspiring Filipinas who have grown their businesses in design, events, social media, beauty products, and dental services on-demand start-ups.

In his welcome remarks, Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate said that the Philippine Consulate recognizes the myriad opportunities for improving lives in the Filipino American community, emphasizing that New York has a huge market where, "with the right product and the right effort, success is just around the corner."

The Forum's resource speaker Ms. Diana Franco, Director of WE NYC (Women Entrepreneurs), informed the participants that WE NYC was created to address the entrepreneurship gender gap by offering a set of specialized business services to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs. She delineated some of the curated programs that WE NYC offers to women entrepreneurs to connect them with available resources, education, and community. Through *WEConnect*, women entrepreneurs are introduced to established professionals through mentoring, networking events, and the digital portal. The *WEMaster* program help these women connect with credit-building services, coach them on capital planning, preparing loan applications and managing debt, as well as build their leadership skills. The *WEFund* platform help them access affordable capital either through crowdfunding or from local lending institutions. Through *WE Legal*, these women receive legal advice from NYC's top firms on a variety of crucial topics.

The panel discussion moderated by Ms. Ledy Almadin of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce New York (PACC NY) featured four successful Filipino-American women entrepreneurs Carla Caramat, CEO and

Co-Founder of Dentist on Demand; Ivie Joy, CEO and Founder of Ivie Joy Floral + Events; Mally Roncal, celebrity makeup artist and founder of Mally Beauty; and Jeanne Grey, CEO and Founder of Grey Layers.

Each shared their stories on what sparked their desire to venture into entrepreneurship, their driving force and motivation to become successful, and how they raise and sustain the capital funding for their businesses.

Mally said that "timing is everything," recalling her decision to start her own makeup line after feeling the toll of the demands of being a celebrity makeup artist and with people constantly asking her "how do you make that look?" She admitted that she was not the best makeup artist, but she knows that "I could do makeup, I can communicate what I know, I can sell something like nobody's business, and I can speak from my heart." She pitched her products to QVC, a broadcast TV home shopping channel network, and her products were completely sold out in 36 minutes.

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WE NYC Director Diana Franco talks about New York City initiatives and programs that support and empower women entrepreneurs. (Photo by Robby Manubay)





## Fil-Am Community News

(Continued from page 7... Entrepreneurship Forum)

Mally said that "timing is everything," recalling her decision to start her own makeup line after feeling the toll of the demands of being a celebrity makeup artist and with people constantly asking her "how do you make that look?" She admitted that she was not the best makeup artist, but she knows that "I could do makeup, I can communicate what I know, I can sell something like nobody's business, and I can speak from my heart." She pitched her products to QVC, a broadcast TV home shopping channel network, and her products were completely sold out in 36 minutes.

Ivie Joy, who was working as a production assistant and designer at a floral shop, realized that her floral designs were being sold at weddings and gave her the idea that "if her designs are making money for these people, then it should give her the level of confidence that she can do it on her own." Speaking about managing her capital which started at \$2,000, she emphasized that she had to "choose the right people to work with and maintain good relations with owners of floral shops, vendors and clients she had worked with to deliver the highest quality of product."

Jeanne, who was convinced by her family to pursue nursing, said she decided to find an outlet through blogging and social media. Remembering her first campaign paid her \$10, Jeanne realized that blogging and social media could be something big and so GreyLayers.com came into fruition. It became one of the most influential blogs in the East Coast, amassing more than 471,000 Instagram fans and international blog subscribers.

Carla, who has been in the dentistry field for over two decades, said that in 2012, she was fortunate to have worked with one of the founders who championed and sponsored her idea of starting Dentist on Demand in New York. From a start-up perspective, she asked herself "What value can I bring having a new business model?" She further added that "I needed to step back and look into what market can we tap into, making the product or services unique that can cater to the needs of the community."

A networking event attended by more than 100 participants immediately followed after the program. The participants were able to interact with these entrepreneurs whose products were also on display at the Philippine Center Gallery lobby.

### Wedding Bells Ring at the Philippine Consulate General



The bride, Lara Jane J. Gongob, places the wedding ring on the finger of the groom, Kevin Dale G. Sardea, while solemnizing officer, Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro, looks on.

Romance filled the air at the Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) as a lovely young couple, Kevin Dale G. Sardea, a physical therapist, and Lara Jane J. Gongob, a nurse, recited their wedding vows and committed themselves to a life together as husband and wife.

The wedding ceremony took place at the Consulate this morning, at around 11:30 a.m., with Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro serving as solemnizing officer. An Aunt of the groom and cheering Consulate personnel were on hand to serve as witnesses to the milestone event.

To get married at PCGNY, both parties must be Filipino citizens, and have to appear personally to file their marriage application. For more information, please visit: <http://www.newyorkpcg.org/the-consulate/our-services/civil-registry/getting-married-at-the-consulate>.





## Fil-Am Community News

### Filipino Community Gets a “Refresher Course” on Philippine Laws



Atty. Melencio Sta. Maria, Jr. gives a lively lecture on developments in Philippine laws and jurisprudence (Photo by NYPCG)

In an effort to provide the Filipino Community with updates on legal developments in the Philippines, the Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) hosted a well-attended Forum at the Philippine Center on 03 June. Atty. Melencio Sta. Maria Jr., who is Dean of the Far Eastern University Institute of Law, Professor of Law at Ateneo de Manila College of Law, a columnist for Manila Bulletin, and a broadcaster for TV5 and Radyo5, among his other concurrent occupations, served as PCGNY's distinguished resource person.

Topics covered include marriage, judicial recognition of foreign divorce, property relations, inheritance, support, administrative adoption, dual citizenship, and controversial subjects, such as gay marriage, amongst others.

Following the instructive presentation was a Q & A where Atty. Sta. Maria addressed legal concerns from its audience. More than 1,700 watched the Forum through PCGNY's *Facebook Live*, a testament to how many of our *kababayans* wish to learn about their legal rights and responsibilities.



Atty. Melencio Sta. Maria Jr. poses with some of the audience, including former Ambassador Mario De Leon Jr. (standing next to Atty. Sta. Maria), and Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro (also a former law student of the resource person), third from right.

### Philippine Social Security System (SSS) Opens at the Philippine Center in New York



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (2nd from left), Consul Arman R. Talbo (leftmost; Manager of the Philippine Center) and SSS Commissioner, Dr. Gonzalo T. Duque (3rd from left) did the honors of cutting the ribbon, with Ms. Celenia D. Dimaano and Marites C. Marin, SSS-NY and SSS-San Francisco representatives, respectively, watching.

The New York Office of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) was officially opened at the Philippine Center on 21 June 2019 to serve Filipinos in the US Northeast.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal encouraged *kababayans* to avail themselves of the services of SSS now that it has been made more accessible to those residing in the US Northeast. Gracing this milestone event was also one of the SSS Commissioners, Dr. Gonzalo T. Duque, who thanked the Consul General and the Philippine Consulate General in New York for hosting the SSS office at the Philippine Center. The manager of the Philippine Center, Consul Arman R. Talbo, was also present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, together with Consul General Cristobal and Commissioner Duque.

In line with the policy of the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to strengthen support mechanisms for Overseas Filipinos (OFs), one-stop service centers for OFs in the Philippines have been established. In New York, the Philippine Center has been serving as such “one-stop shop” with the presence not only of the Consulate but other Philippine government agencies as well to serve the Fil-Am community.



Ms. Celenia D. Dimaano, SSS-New York Representative, entertains one of her first clients immediately after the ribbon-cutting ceremony (Photo by NYPCG).





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Women Achievers Inspire Women Community in New York Through Their Duty, Identity, and Voice

Internationally respected auditor Under-Secretary-General Heidi Mendoza of the Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations, ranking female officer of the Connecticut Air National Guard Major Jessica Alina Persad, and food influencer and blogger Erin Robles shared stories about their journeys in their respective fields with the Filipino-American community in New York during the celebration of International Women's Day organized by the Philippine Consulate General on 8 March 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center in New York.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal commended the distinguished Filipino women for their courage and audacity and thanked them for sharing the experience of their challenges, struggles and success.

USG Mendoza stated in her remarks that she spoke for many women, especially the unknown and unnamed women whose "only" achievement in life was to raise a family, women in government as public servants who are also part-time mothers, as well as women in the Philippines who stand for what they believe in. She also honored her own mother who chose to live an "insignificant" life so that her children could live significantly. Ms. Mendoza emphasized the women's values of simplicity, humility, resilience, as well as the principles of accountability, responsibility, ethics, trust, and honesty in public service.

Major Persad shared her 15 years of experience as a second-generation Filipino-American serving in the military, learning to protect and care for the vulnerable and those in need. Being a woman in the military, she stressed that she had to learn to find her voice and change her mindset by turning problematic situations into opportunities, steering her to leadership positions. She encouraged women to bravely take a seat and let their voices be heard.



*Internationally respected auditor Under-Secretary-General Heidi Mendoza of the United Nations, ranking female officer of the Connecticut Air National Guard Major Jessica Alina Persad and food influencer and blogger Erin Robles share their journey in their respective fields.*

Erin Robles, torn between staying in New York and living in the comfort of her home in the Philippines, opted to pursue her dream in New York. An interior designer by profession, she started her Instagram account when it was fairly unknown, and used it to show photos of food depicting Filipino traditional celebrations. Her followers eventually numbered in the tens of thousands. She stated that the social media platform opened many opportunities to a 27-year old Filipina living alone in New York and made her thrive in the profession that she loves. Ms. Robles encouraged Filipino-Americans to overcome feelings of inferiority and be proud and own their passion, as she did, notwithstanding being the "youngest, female and Asian" in many of her work situations.

Atty. Elizabeth Cueva and Atty. Connie Montoya, two women achievers in the field of immigration and law and volunteers in the Filipino-American community, applauded the journey and insights of the resource speakers. Atty. Montoya recognized their dedication to duty, staunchness to identity, and courage.

A vibrant discussion with the women and men in the audience followed the speeches of the three resource speakers.

Now on its 5<sup>th</sup> year, "An Evening with the Distinguished Filipino Women" is an annual activity of the Philippine Consulate General in New York aimed at focusing the spotlight on Filipina women in the US Northeast who have gained recognition in the US.



*Consul General Claro S. Cristobal expresses appreciation to the women achievers in New York during the celebration of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 at the Philippine Center. (From L-R) Atty. Elizabeth Cueva, Major Jessica Alina Persad, UN Under-Secretary-General Heidi Mendoza, Ms. Erin Robles and Atty. Connie Montoya.*

## On the Occasion of International Women's Day





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Society of Foreign Consuls in New York Recognize Fil-Am Broadway Artist Ali Ewoldt



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal handed the Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Ali Ewoldt, Philippine Honoree to the Society of Foreign Consuls International Women's Day hosted by the Philippine Consulate General New York on 14 March 2019. Consul General Maciej Golubiewski of Poland joins the Philippine Consul General. (photo courtesy of SOFC-NY)



Nineteen (19) women achievers representing 19 nationalities (sans honoree of Poland) in New York were recognized at the annual event organized by the Society of Foreign Consuls (SOFC) in New York on 14 March 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center.

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Ali Ewoldt, a multi talented performer in theater arts, was the Philippine nominee for 2019. Ali just completed over two and a half years as Christine in Broadway's longest-running musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*. She is the first Asian-American and woman of color to play the role in its 30 years. Ali has been an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the performing arts and a spokesperson for the Theater Development Fund's Autism Theater Initiative and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Ali made her Broadway debut as Cosette in *Les Miserables*, appeared in Lincoln Center's recent Tony Award Winning revival of *The King and I* and has played Maria in numerous productions of *West Side Story* across the nation and the world. She has been featured on *The Michael J. Fox Show*, the short films *Yield* and *Mia* and has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops, at Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall and Feinstein's/54 Below, with the American Pops Orchestra, The Houston Symphony and The Boston Pops under Maestro Keith Lockhart.

Consul Claro S. Cristobal, together with Consul General Diana Zhgenti, SOFC President handed the Certificate of Recognition, bouquet of flowers and gift to Ali during the program. The audience listened in awe to Ali's rendition of a Kundiman song entitled "Pakiusap" following the awarding. Five other countries also participated in the cultural program with their traditional dance and musical performances.

### Filipino-American, Lourds Lane, Promotes Women Empowerment Through Her "SuperYou The Musical"



Internationally renowned for its musicals, theatre, and artistic performances, New York City has once again added to its legendary repertoire with "Super You the Musical," which premiered on 22 April 2019 at the historic The Players Club in Gramercy Park.

Created by Filipino-American Lourds Lane, who was raised by a Filipino mother of modest means, "Super You the Musical" empowers women to rediscover their inner superheroes and to use their superhero powers to create the world they envisioned. With inspirational songs like "Don't Wait Create," "I will Start the Fire Now" and "We are Awake," the musical is the journey of a female comic book artist, who reignites the superhero in her by encountering her superheroine creations. The Huffington Post has described the musical as "A Broadway-bound game-changer...Finally, there is a happy ending that shows girls how to fall in love with themselves."

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## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Filipino Women Leaders “Disrupt” The Philippine Consulate General in New York

Filipino Women Leaders of the *Filipina Women's Network* “disrupted” the Philippine Consulate General on 04 March 2019, with the book, “Disrupt 3.0. Filipina Women: Rising,” the third in an anthology series of leadership stories from preeminent Filipino women making a distinctive mark on their chosen careers.

“If you want to lead, you must disrupt. And to make change disruptive, leadership is required,” stated Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro, who delivered the welcome remarks for “DISRUPTing New York” after Consul General Claro S. Cristobal yielded the floor to the Vice Consul in honor of International Women's Day.

Selected snippets from the “Disrupt” anthology series were read by various authors during the event, such as Lirio Sobreviñas-Covey PhD, a licensed psychologist and Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center and Founder and President of the Association of Adults with Autism Philippines, Inc.; Isabelita Marcelo Abele, President and CEO of the South Jersey-based family-owned lumber supplier, US Lumber; and Rebecca Murry, an architect and Math Coach at the United Nations International School who uses an innovative “constructive-based instructional approach” to teach about numbers, amongst others.

A leadership discussion with the event's guest of honor, Ms. Hydra Mendoza, Deputy Chancellor for Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communications of the New York Department of Education, followed the book reading, with Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, Chairperson of the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation serving as facilitator.

Through the sharing of amazing stories of courageous, passionate, and fierce women who disrupted the status quo, the event became a source of inspiration for *Pinay Empowerment*.

Ms. Marilyn Mondejar, Founder and CEO of Filipina Women's Network, aims to bring the *Disrupt* series globally, with a similar event in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in the offing.



Rebecca Murry, Math Coach of United Nations International School reads from “Disrupt 3.0” her story on leadership entitled “Redefining Pathways”.



Hydra Mendoza, Deputy Chancellor for Community Empowerment, Partnership & Communications of the NY Department of Education shares her insights on leadership with Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, Chairperson of the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation serving as facilitator.

(Continued from page 10... “SuperYou the Musical”)



Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro (center) with Filipino-Americans, Beatrice Kimmel (left), the President of EMPKT, a public relations firm promoting “SuperYou The Musical,” and Lourds Lane, the visionary artist behind the said musical (Photo by Beatrice Kimmel)



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (second from the right) poses with Filipino Women leaders “disrupting” New York. Consul Arman R. Talbo, Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro and cultural officer, Ms. Olivia Osias-Magpile were also present. (Photo by

A Harvard honors graduate and classically trained musician, Lourds Lane created “SuperYou The Musical” as an offshoot of her non-profit organization, “The SuperYou FUNDation,” which she founded in 2013. Putting “fun” in this foundation is the “SuperYou Curriculum,” which “uses the language of superheroes” to inspire children to feel empowered and to use their “superhero powers” to help make a difference in their respective communities. This organization has been working with UNESCO to incorporate the program into their global curriculum.



## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Filipino Restaurant Week in Full Swing in the US East Coast

Twenty three (23) restaurants and pop ups in seven states in the US East Coast bring into the limelight the best of Philippine cuisine, from the traditional and home-style flavors to the bold, innovative and cutting edge fusion food, during the Filipino Restaurant Week 2019 (FRW 2019) happening on 16-23 May 2019.

Now on its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the FRW continues to offer foodies a unique gastronomic treat that will give them a taste of Filipino culinary identity and food culture, and a unique experience of Filipino hospitality.

Inspired by the New York Restaurant Week, the FRW participating restaurants serve prix fixe meals of at least three courses: appetizer, entrée, and dessert. This year, the Philippine coconut is the featured ingredient that is incorporated by the restaurants in any one of their offerings.

With its increasing popularity, the FRW, which was started by the Philippine Consulate General in New York in 2015, generates buzz not only within the Filipino-American community but also in the main stream US gastronomic landscape especially on social media. The event shines the spotlight on Filipino restaurants and chefs as an essential way through which the public could discover and enjoy Philippine cuisine in the US.

New York Consul General Claro S. Cristobal is optimistic that the FRW 2019 will carry on the growing trend of offering food lovers throughout the US East Coast a fantastic gastronomic treat which will immerse them into the fascinating tastes of Philippine cuisine.

The FRW 2019 official launch was held on 8 May 2019 at the High Bar Rooftop of the Double Tree Hotel in Midtown Manhattan where the participating restaurants, chefs, and restaurateurs were introduced to the media, food enthusiasts, and guests. This was the first time that the Launch was held outside of the Philippine Center to provide a bigger, more relaxed space and generate a food-tasting ambience where people could network, enjoy, and talk about Filipino food. The Launch was attended by TV celebrities Julie Anne San Jose, Rayver Cruz, and Rhian Ramos.

Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate expressed excitement as the project aimed to promote the beautiful and delicious tradition of cuisine and cooking continues to expand in many States in the US. He also thanked the FRW chefs and owners for nurturing and promoting the Philippine food heritage.



Consul Arman R. Talbo officially presented and thanked this year's participating restaurants during the Launch ceremony. With the support of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, restaurants from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC are participating for the first time, in addition to restaurants from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. There are 10 new participants including The Buren in Brooklyn; Maganda, a pop-up restaurant; Karenderya in Nyack, NY; ASIN in New Jersey; Tanám in Massachusetts; Sarvida and Lalo in Philadelphia; Bistro 1521 in Virginia; KuyaJa's Lechon Belly in Maryland; and Purple Patch in Washington, DC. Seven restaurants from New York and New Jersey have been with the FRW since its inception: Ugly Kitchen, Purple Yam, Phil-am Kusina, Max's Restaurant, Maharlika, Jeeney and Grill 21 which were joined by Tito Rad's, Swell Dive, Mighty Bowl, Perla in Philadelphia, Kuma Inn and Kabisera Kape in the succeeding years.

ASIN offers authentic home-style Filipino food inspired with the mission of bringing Filipinos closer to home through food as well as introducing Philippine cuisine to the culinary world map.

(Continue to page 13)





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

(Continued from page 12... FRW Launch)



Guests enjoying Filipino food during the launch of the FRW 2019 (photo by Ray Maranan)

"There are more to explore about our cuisine as the Philippines has many regional specialties which we highlight in our restaurant," said Ms. Quennie Banez, Asin's owner and a 2-time national winner of Nora Daza Food Contest in the Philippines.

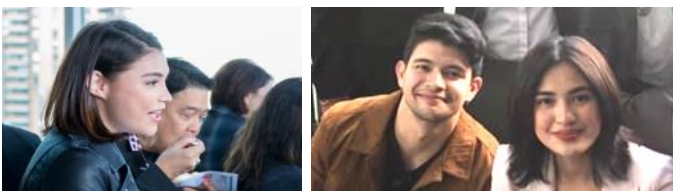
"We do our best to honor the food and the flavors we grew up with, and we are also very careful to be honest when we take liberties. Most importantly, we love that we can play a role in starting a dialogue about the food and the culture of the Philippines. In that sense, we take our role as representatives of our culture very seriously," said Cheryl Baun, co-owner of Karenderya, a restaurant named by Esquire as one of the 20 Best New Restaurants in America for 2018.

Young Fil-Am Joann Canosa, owner of Maganda, said her pop-up and events company not only offer both traditional and innovative Filipino cuisine but use their platform to spotlight and empower Pinays all over the world from the tribal Pinays, as depicted in our logo, to the Gen Z Pinays.

"I am always excited for FRW! It's a great intro into the yummy world of Filipino cuisine," remarked chef King Phojanakong, a Culinary Institute of America graduate and owner of Kuma Inn.

Prizes, included two roundtrip tickets to the Philippines via Philippine Airlines, will be given to clients who dine at three of the participating restaurants and post pictures of their food and experience through Instagram. The awarding will be done during the Closing event of FRW 2019 on 30 May at the Ugly Kitchen in Manhattan.

The Filipino Restaurant Week 2019 is a flagship project of the Philippine Consulate New York in cooperation with Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, Philippine Department of Tourism-NY, Philippine Trade and Investment Center-NY, Philippine Airlines, Tanduay, Planet X, GMA Pinoy TV, Philippine National Bank and Neocolors.



Celebrities Rhianna Ramos, Rayver Cruz and Julie Anne San Jose participated in the Launch of FRW 2019.

### Philippine Consulate General in New York Marks End of Successful Filipino Restaurant Week 2019

The Philippine Consulate General in New York marked the successful conclusion of the Filipino Restaurant Week (FRW) 2019 with a closing event featuring *kamayan*, Filipino food, Tanduay cocktails, and Filipino music at Ugly Kitchen, one of the participating restaurants in Manhattan, on 30 June 2019.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Ms. Emmeline P. Robles who won the roundtrip ticket to the Philippines, Ms. Luz Navarro of PDOT, Mr. Josh Vasquez of Philippine Airlines, and Consul Arman R. Talbo during the Closing Ceremony of the FRW 2019.

At the SRO event attended by Filipino and American food enthusiasts, restaurant owners, partners and sponsors, the prizes for the different FRW promotional contests were awarded. Ms. Emmeline Robles, known on Instagram for the handle "food glitz", won a roundtrip ticket to the Philippines courtesy of Philippine Airlines, and a culinary tour provided by the Department of Tourism New York Office. For the duration of the FRW, Ms. Robles went to several participating restaurants and posted pictures of her food which were seen and liked by her thousands of online followers. Free dinner coupons and food vouchers were likewise awarded to clients who collected at least three stamps from the participating restaurants on their FRW passport.

In his remarks, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal said that while the FRW 2019 was ending, the support for Filipino restaurants and promotion of Philippine cuisine should not end. He encouraged the guests to make everyday a Filipino restaurant day.

To thank the participating restaurants, chefs, partners, and sponsors, Consul General Cristobal invited them to a dinner at his residence on 3 June 2019. He expressed his appreciation for their continued support to the FRW which is now on its 5th year. The Consul General said that he looks forward to further expanding the FRW which now covers 7 states this year, with the support of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC..

( Continue to page 14)



## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Philippines participated in the Society of Foreign Consuls International Food Festival



Ms. Rose Teves, chef and owner of Grill 21, a participating restaurant during the Filipino Restaurant Week in May.

Twenty-five Consulates in New York participated in the Society of Foreign Consuls annually organized International Food Festival held on 26 June 2019. The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland hosted the event. Philippines, Singapore and Thailand represented the ASEAN region.

Each Consulate presented samples of their traditional culinary delights and drinks. This year, SOFC put into the spotlight the chefs and restaurateurs of the participating countries, giving them the opportunity to introduce the typical or traditional dishes they have prepared. The night was also a celebration of diverse culture through dance and songs participated by seven countries.



The Philippines shared its Batangas Bistek, one of the favorite Filipino ways to cook beef combining two flavors that Filipino love – salty and sour.

The Philippine Consulate General Delegation, headed by Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate, offered “Bistek” and cassava cake prepared by Ms. Rose Teves, chef and owner of Grill 21. According to Rose, Bistek is one of the favorite Filipino ways to cook beef combining two flavors that Filipino love – salty and sour while cassava, a Filipino moist cake made from grated cassava, coconut milk, and condensed milk with a custard layer on top commonly eaten during merienda and is served during gatherings and special occasion. Grill 21 was one of the participating restaurants during the Filipino Restaurant Week in May.

Consul General Diana Zhgeni, President of the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York acknowledged the participation of the Chefs as well as the Consulates at the Festival which primarily gives opportunity for the Consulates to reconnect and mingle with each other while promoting and enjoying diverse cuisines from different regions.

(Continued from page 13.. End of FRW 2019)

The restaurant owners thanked the Consulate for coming up with the FRW and for promoting the participating restaurants both on mainstream and social media. They said that during the duration of the event, they observed increased traffic to their restaurants, with many clients inquiring about their FRW offerings.

This year, 23 restaurants and pop-ups participated from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland and Massachusetts.

The annual FRW is a flag-ship project of the Philippine Consulate General in New York with the support of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, Department of Tourism- New York Office, Philippine Trade and Investment Center- New York, Philippine Airlines, Tanduay, GMA Pinoy TV, PNB, Neocolors, and Planet X.



(R-L) Ms. Rachelle Ocampo won a dinner voucher for collecting 3 stamps on her food passport from participating restaurants, Mr. Mike Ang of Tanduay, and Consul Arman R. Talbo.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal hosted a dinner at his residence to thank participating restaurant owners and chefs, partners, and sponsors of the recently concluded Filipino Restaurant Week 2019.





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Art Exhibition of Artist Fernando Kabigting Featured at the 121<sup>st</sup> Philippine Independence Day Celebration



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (2<sup>nd</sup> from R) and Charge d'Affairs Kira Danganan-Azucena (1<sup>st</sup> from R), and Mr. Henry Howard, long time supporter of the works of Mr. Kabigting (2<sup>nd</sup> from L), together with Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Q. Kabigting and their daughter Karina Tenaillon cut the ribbon and officially opened the exhibit *Milestones: A Celebration of Art and Life* on 31 May 2019 at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center.

More than 30 art pieces by renowned artist Fernando Q. Kabigting are featured in the exhibit titled “*Milestones: A Celebration of Art and Life*”. The exhibit’s opening was held 31 May 2019 at the Philippine Center in New York. A prelude to the celebration of the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the exhibit showcases a celebration of art and life through Kabigting’s work, which consists of paintings on ancient wooden “batya” and old wood reclaimed from train tracks.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal applauded Mr. Kabigting as the artist marks various turning points in his life, emphasizing that his art springs from resilience, from determination and hope.

“I could also say that our country was built by and through its people’s resilience, determination and most of all hope. All these have come together to make works of beauty and grace” stated the Consul General.

A leader of the Fil-Am community and a friend of the Kabigtings, Ms. Vivian Talambiras Cruz expressed admiration for the artist’s unique paintings, particularly his masterpieces painted after the paralyzing stroke he suffered twenty years ago.

Speaking on behalf of the artist, Karina Tenaillon, Mr. Kabigting’s oldest daughter, said milestones are worth celebrating, enumerating her father’s trifecta of life experiences as he celebrates his eighty (80) fruitful birthdays, sixty years (60) of being a professional artist and twenty (20) years since he had a debilitating stroke.

The Philippine Center’s Lobby Gallery is very important to Mr. Kabigting as his first one-man show was held at this venue in 1988 and was followed by another exhibit entitled “*Seeing Beyond: An Artist’s Journey*” in 2015. He had numerous one-man exhibits in places like the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2009, at the Italia Gallery in Bacolod City in 2012, and at the Ayala Museum in 2014. “*Milestones: A Celebration of Art and Life*” will run until 14 June 2019.

### Filipino Community in Philadelphia Celebrates Philippine Independence Day with Mass

The Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia (FECGP), the umbrella organization for Filipinos in the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey area, commemorated the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence with a Mass at the St. Augustine Church on Sunday, 09 June 2019.

The mass brought together Filipinos from the surrounding area, filling up the church with the faithful, and singing a rousing rendition of “Bayan Ko” (“My Country”) as the recessional hymn.

In her remarks during the reception that followed the mass, FECGP President Nida Imperial stressed the importance of the community coming together to mark this milestone, and thanked all present for lending their support for the events being held. Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate, who represented the Philippine Consulate General in the event, stated that it was fitting that the commemoration should be held in Philadelphia, itself known as the cradle of American Independence, and showing how the peoples of the United States and the Philippines both valued freedom and democratic values, with heroes of the past sacrificing everything so that future generations could live as free people.



Officers and members of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia (FECGP) pose for a picture after the Mass.



## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Bergen County Honors Filipino Community with Independence Day Resolution



Filipinos from New Jersey Commemorate Philippine Independence Day.

Citing the contributions of the 24,000-strong Filipino community in Bergen County, New Jersey, County Executive James J. Tedesco III led the ceremonial flag raising at the Bergen County Plaza on 12 June 2019.

The program that accompanied the flag raising included cultural performances from community organizations, as well as a keynote speech from renowned Filipino-American chef Dale Talde, who has eponymous restaurants in New York City and New Jersey.

In his speech for the occasion, Tedesco, who dressed for the occasion in the traditional Philippine "barong", mentioned the contributions that members of the Filipinos had brought to Bergen County citing the waves of professionals that had enhanced the county and its town by their presence. Tedesco expressed the hope that Filipinos would continue to find Bergen County a great and welcoming place to live and work.

Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate, representing the Philippine Consulate General in turn expressed the Consulate's gratitude for the County's generosity in recognizing and honoring the anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence, and stated that the relations between the two countries continued to grow and strengthen as the years pass, and hoped for even better relations in the coming years, as befitting the arc of people who share traditions of freedom and liberty.

A proclamation recognizing Philippine Independence, honoring the Filipinos' "sacrifices, hard work and contributions, here and across the globe." was presented to the Deputy Consul General.



Deputy Consul General (far right) poses with local government officials and members of the Fil-Am Community.

### New England Filipino Community Celebrates Philippine Independence Day with Parade, Fair

The Philippine-American Mainstream Advocacy for Nonpartisan Associations, Inc. (PAMANA), the dynamic Filipino organization behind the annual celebration of Philippine Independence in the New England region, once more organized a parade, cultural show and street fair to celebrate Philippine independence on Saturday, 15 June 2019.



Filipinos gathered at the La Salette National Shrine grounds to enjoy the presentations of various Filipino-American groups coming from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maine. Many came to buy unique Filipino products, and of course enjoy genuine Filipino food sold by almost 30 vendors who had come to take part in the fair.

In her remarks, PAMANA President Jennifer Coliflores expressed her pride at her Filipino heritage, and the appreciation for her Filipino heritage instilled in her by her mother that became the motivation for her to devote her time to not just keeping PAMANA's Independence Day celebration, but looking for ways to expand the event.

Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate, representing the Philippine Consulate General in New York, for his part lauded PAMANA for its effort in holding the commemoration of Philippine Independence, and encouraged all present to continue the tradition, as a source of pride for emerging generations.

PAMANA's commemoration of Philippine Independence will culminate with the Gala Ball to be held on 29 June 2019.



Filipinos from all over the New England area gather together to celebrate Philippine Independence.





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Consulate General in New York and Fil-Am Community Celebrate 121 Years of Proclamation of Philippine Independence

The Philippine Consulate General in New York, together with the Filipino-American Community in the US Northeastern seaboard, celebrated the 121 years of Proclamation of Philippine Independence during the Independence Day Reception held at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center on 20 June 2019 with the theme "*Kalayaan 2019: Courage of the Nation, Compassion for the People*"

In his remarks, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal stated that we should commemorate the auspicious date of our Philippine Independence as a reminder that "our freedom was bought with blood, and remind ourselves that we must ever be vigilant and willing to sacrifice, so we and those coming after us shall remain free and be holding in our own hands our destiny."

Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate read the Independence Day message of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, followed by Consul Arman R. Talbo, who in turn read the message of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr.

Musical entertainment during the celebration was provided by Filipino couple Ruth and Cyd Tumpalan. Ruth, a violinist, is the former assistant concertmaster of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, who recently won 1st place in the American Protege International Competition. On the other hand, Cyd, a percussionist, who was the lead percussionist for the Hong Kong Disneyland Marching Band. Both Cyd and Ruth were selected to represent the Philippines in the Asian Youth Orchestra where they did a concert tour of Asia.

Philippine culinary delights from Filipino restaurants were served during the reception attended by Fil-Am leaders, community members, and guests. These include *chicken sisig* from Apollo Restaurant; *ukoy* from Tropical Hut; *lechon* from Philippine Bread House; *chicken inasal skewers* from Ugly Kitchen; *crab pinangat* from Asin, *turon* from Victory Chicken restaurant; and mouth-watering Filipino desserts from Mountain Province Café.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (front, 8th from the left), NYC Commissioner Anne del Castillo (9th from the left) Prof. Ambeth Ocampo (10th from the left), with the officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in New York, leaders and members of the Fil-Am community and guests during the Independence Day Reception in New York.

### Filipino Community In Greenwich, Connecticut Celebrates Philippine Independence Day



Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro delivers her message and greets the Fil-Am Community in CT a Happy Independence day .



Members of the Filipino Community in Greenwich, CT, together with Selectman John Toner, in their Barongs and Filipiniana (Photo by NYPCG)



Selectman John Toner speaks about the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the United States of America (Photo by NYPCG)

The Connecticut Association of Filipino and American Families together with members of other Fil-Am organizations in Connecticut, commemorated the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Philippine Independence by holding its annual Philippine flag-raising ceremony at the town hall of Greenwich, Connecticut (CT) at 8:30 this morning. Selectman John Toner of the Board of Selectmen of Greenwich, CT, recalled the enduring friendship of the Philippines and the United States. As a volunteer of Greenwich Hospital, where he regularly encounters Filipino medical practitioners, he also praised Filipinos for their professionalism and work ethic. On the other hand, Vice Consul Tanya Faye O. Ramiro, who represented the Philippine Consulate General in New York, said, "It has been more than 121 years since we have transcended our colonial past, and Filipinos, wherever they may be in the world, are now making their own history." Cheers of "Mabuhay!" concluded the ceremony.





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### 121st Philippine Independence Day Celebrations/Parades

**PIDCI PARADE • MADISON AVENUE • MANHATTAN • NEW YORK CITY**



### Philippine Independence Day Celebrated in Passaic, New Jersey

The Filipino-American community in Passaic, New Jersey held their Annual Philippine Day Celebration highlighted by festivities and a food and cultural festival on 9 June 2019 at the Third Ward Park in Passaic.

The event was organized by the Philippine Day Organizing Committee (PDOC) and was attended by hundreds of Fil-Ams living in the city and its nearby areas. Consulate personnel and local officials of Passaic likewise participated in the commemoration. The Independence Day celebration in Passaic which is held every 2nd Sunday of June is now on its 32nd year.







# KA'AKBAY KA'AKBAY

JANUARY TO JUNE  
2019

19

Fil-Am Cultural Events

## 121st Philippine Independence Day Celebrations/Parades

PAFCOM PARADE • JERSEY CITY • NEW JERSEY



*Kalayaan*  
2019





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Filipino Community in Philadelphia and New Jersey Commemorate 77<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan

The Filipino-American veterans of WWII and other conflicts were honored at the commemoration organized by the Philippine Consulate General in New York, in cooperation with the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, Inc. (FECGP), the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, and the Pvt. Tomas Claudio VFW Post 1063 Auxiliary, at the 77<sup>th</sup> Araw ng Kagitingan on 6 April 2019.

A wreath laying ceremony at the Bataan Death March Memorial in Cooper River Park, Cherry Hill, New Jersey led by Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate and WWII Veteran Pablo S. Barros, who came with his children and grandchildren, highlighted the program. Freeholder Susan Shin-Angulo of Camden County, as well as the Presidents of the Fil-com partners joined the ceremony. Aidan Peterson, a young volunteer of Bugles America played the Taps to conclude the solemn ceremony.



WWII Veteran Pablo S. Barros (seated on a wheelchair) and Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate led the Wreath Laying Ceremony during the celebration of the 77<sup>th</sup> Araw ng Kagitingan at the Bataan Death March Memorial in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on 6 April 2019.

In his remarks, Deputy Consul General Tate recalled how Mr. Barros and other WWII veterans shared their war stories during a previous ceremony. The WWII veterans recounted their memories of the agonies of war, of their family and friends cut down in their youth. "So many of that generation, lost in the flames of battle", said the Deputy Consul General.

### Philippine Consulate General in New York Commemorates 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of EDSA People Power



The Philippine Consulate General in New York commemorated the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of EDSA People Power with a screening of the documentary film entitled "EDSA The World Remembers" at the Post's Consular Section.

The 80-minute documentary film narrated by Teodoro Benigno which first aired in 1995, presented rare accounts of the EDSA Revolution in 1986 featuring first-hand interviews of key figures from different sides of the political spectrum, military officials, religious sectors, media personalities representatives of Embassies and leaders of other countries. It includes interviews of the late President Corazon Aquino, former President Fidel V. Ramos, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo, former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the late US Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth and the late US Representative Stephen Solarz. Then Presidents Francois Mitterrand of France, Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia, and Nelson Mandela of South Africa shared also their insights about EDSA People Power.

He further stated that we are not asked to make the sacrifice of our lives, but every day, we are asked to do little acts that benefit our community, like voting in elections.

Freeholder Susan Shin-Angulo thanked the veterans on their sacrifices and bravery which paved the way to where we are now. She personally greeted each of the veterans present after the wreath-laying.

A reception followed at the Philippine Community Center in Stratford, New Jersey. A 20-minute video entitled "Duty to Country – Filipino WWII Veterans" was shown. Following the screening, Captain Carlo Aragoncillo, a second generation Filipino-American and Public Affairs Officer for the 244<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade gave an account of his experience growing up in a family of veterans.



Freeholder Susan Shin-Angulo (left photo), Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate (center) and Capt. Carlo Aragoncillo (left photo) delivered their respective remarks of honor and gratitude to the Fil-Am WWII veterans and other war veterans during the commemoration of the 77<sup>th</sup> Araw ng Kagitingan on 6 April 2019 in Cherry Hill, NJ.





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### ***Prof. Ambeth Ocampo Presents "Rizal: the Hero as Traveler" in New York***

The Philippine Consulate General in New York organized a presentation by Professor Ambeth R. Ocampo in New York with the theme "Rizal: the Hero as Traveler" held on 19 June 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center.

The event was the highlight of the 158th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal which fell on the same day and was held in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Knights of Rizal New York Chapter (KOR-NY).

In his remarks, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal highlighted the importance of studying the life and ideals of Rizal. He said that the Consulate and the Fil-Am community in New York is lucky to have Prof. Ocampo who a renowned public historian, researcher, and Rizal expert.

During his talk, Prof. Ocampo presented fascinating stories and interesting facts about Rizal's travels and how his exposure abroad helped shape his ideas and strengthened

his love of country. He said that long back on the travels of our national hero helps us understand and appreciate Rizal as a human being. Like many overseas Filipinos, he said that Rizal missed the Philippines, including Filipino food, while he was abroad.

Prof. Ocampo likewise shared to the audience rare photos and writings of Rizal which he discovered during his years of intensive research. During the Q&A that followed his lecture, he shared how his research and interest on Rizal have grown and deepened through the years, and how so many things about the hero continue to be revealed or rediscovered to the present day.

The presentation was followed by a Knighting Ceremony by the Knights of Rizal New York Chapter where five new knights were accepted to the Order, five became lifetime members, and chapter member Sir Dr. Roy Guinto was exalted to the rank of Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR).



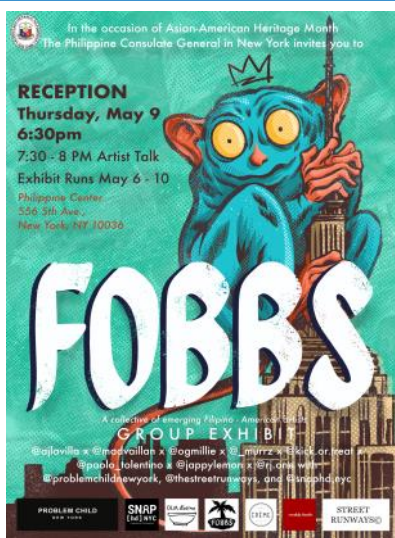
Prof. Ambeth Ocampo shares fascinating facts and stories of Rizal's travels during a forum in New York commemorating the 158th birth



Prof. Ambeth Ocampo's talk was attended by the Fil-Am community and members of the Knights of Rizal in the Tri-state area.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal welcomes the audience to the forum and introduces Prof. Ambeth Ocampo.



### **Art Exhibit of Young Fil-Am Artists Marks Asian/Pacific American Month in New York**

In celebration of the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month this May, the Philippine Consulate General in New York showcased a one-of-a-kind exhibit featuring a group of young Filipino-American artists at the lobby gallery of the Philippine Center from 6 -10 May 2019.

The event was organized and conceptualized in coordination with the *Fresh Off the Boat Boys (and Girls)* or FOBBS, a collective of young Filipino-American street and contemporary artists based in New York City. The members of FOBBS have done street art exhibitions and projects for New York companies, and as a group, had exhibited their work last year in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Their goal is to engage and help educate their community and supporters, whether Filipinos or not, on their Filipino heritage and culture through their art.

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## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Philippines Takes Center Stage at the South Hampton Cultural Center 2019 Spring Performing Arts Festival

The Philippine Consulate General New York and the Department of Tourism New York Office participated in the 2019 Spring Performing Arts Festival organized by the South Hampton Cultural Center (SCC) in collaboration with the Asian Cultural Arts Alliance held at Levitas Center for the Arts in South Hampton, New York.

Every year, the Spring Performing Art Festival, in its effort to nourish excellence in all creative forms and instill curiosity, inspiration and connection among the diverse culture in South Hampton community, showcase two countries. This year the SCC featured the Philippines and China.

During the live performance event, the Philippines was represented by Tribu Cebuano and Teatro Kandusay, local performing dance groups of the two active community groups: Cebuano Engaging in Building Unity, Inc. (CEBU) and SocSkSargen USA, Inc., respectively. Tribu Cebuano, the Best Performer in the annual Independence parade in Manhattan, showcased the distinctly beautiful *Sinulog* dance with its performers wearing their colorful and intricate costumes. The Teatro Kandusay of SocSkSargen USA, Inc. performed *Dugso* which is a ceremonial dance for thanksgiving and prayer for protection during important occasion and *Agtatanum*, a celebration of a bountiful harvest among the Manobo people in Bukidnon.

During the open workshops, the Philippine Department of Tourism welcomed guests and introduced heritage sites and tourism places in the country. Fabrics from the SocSkSargen region including T'nalak and T'boli bead works were also on display as well as a video on the weaving tradition in the area. The workshop and live performance events were followed by a reception where Filipino and Chinese cuisines were served.



Ms. Luz Navarro (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) & Mr. Joey Chanco (1<sup>st</sup> from R) of the Department of Tourism – NY and Ms. Olivia Osias-Maggpile, Cultural Officer of the Philippine Consulate General New York together with the organizers from South Hampton Cultural Center Mr. Steven Llorens (Center) and Fil-com leader Atty. Dulce Barangan.



(continued from page 21... Young Fil-Am Artists)



Consul Arman R. Talbo (extreme left) and Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) pose with some FOBBS artists after the talk back during the exhibit which highlights their works and talents on 10 May 2019 at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center.



The Philippine Consulate General, through this exhibit, seeks to highlight the contributions of contemporary and emerging Filipino-American artists in shaping the art landscape of the US. A reception and talkback with the artists was held on Thursday, 9 May 2019 at the Philippine Center.

**FOBB Artists are as follows:** RJ One, Mad Vaillan, OF Millie, AJ Lavilla, Paolo Tolentino, Jappy Agoncillio, Kick, Murzz, Joey Natale Hortillas Gogila, Problem Child and Eero John Oco.





## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### Unity Iftar Celebration at the Philippine Consulate in New York Highlights Diversity of Philippine Culture



(L-R) Mr. Sedic Ampanas shares religious and cultural significance of Ramadan during the Unity Iftar Celebration; Guests partake of Maranao and Iranun dishes during the Iftar reception or breaking of the fast.



(L-R) Dianalan recite verses from the Quran during Unity Iftar Celebration; Potri Rankamanis of Kinding Sindaw Melayu expresses hope for the return to Marawi of thousands of displaced families.

In solidarity with the Filipino-American Muslim community in the US northeast, the Philippine Consulate General in New York together with the Kinding Sindaw Melayu Heritage hosted the Unity Iftar Celebration on 16 May 2019 at the Philippine Center New York.

In his welcome remarks, Consul Ricarte Abejuela III said that the unity Iftar celebration recognizes that the Philippines is a society composed of many peoples and many beliefs. He added that “faith is intertwined with Filipino practice and tradition” and “Filipino Muslim culture is one of the distinguishable cornerstones of Philippine culture and society.”

Cohn Reznick Managing Director Sedic Ampanas, whose parents are from the Iran on and Maguindanaon tribes, shared the religious and cultural significance of Ramadan. He imparted that fasting during the holy month of Ramadan teaches a person discipline, spiritual self-purification, and obedience to God. He said that Iftars also draw family and friends together and share the food with the community, a tradition most Filipinos are accustomed to.

The Iftar celebration was highlighted by the interfaith prayers, with sisters Farah and Tisha Dianalan reciting verses from the Quran, Rev. Fr. Roy Regaspi praying for peace and unity, and Mr. Sedic Ampanas, leading the Adhan and Magrib prayers.

### Alumni Associations in New York Continue the Gabay Mag-aaral Project



Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gabay Mag-aaral Project Workshop, a civic project of the Homecoming sa Konsulado, held at the Philippine Center on 23 March 2019.

Members of the different alumni associations in New York and interested volunteers attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gabay Mag-aaral Workshop organized by the Philippine Consulate General New York which aimed to review lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the first Gabay Mag-aaral Project (GMP) and to plan for this year's implementation of the GMP.

The Gabay Mag-aaral Project is an outcome of the Homecoming sa Konsulado designed to mobilize

US-based mentors and volunteers to reach out to public elementary schools in the Philippines and conduct a student assembly among Grade 5 and 6 students to inspire and motivate them and to share how to achieve their dreams based on time-honored values of honesty, integrity and discipline.

Consul Arman Talbo welcomed the participants of the Workshop and recalled the history of the GMP. He facilitated the discussion on the priorities and thanked the three resource speakers who volunteered to implement the GMP in three public schools last year.

Dr. Nerissa Calub of San Carlos University Alumni Association, Dr. Roxanne Cajigas of Centro Escolar University Alumni Association and Ms. Nelsie Parrado of University of the Philippines Alumni Association of America, Inc. shared experiences and challenges of their meeting with Grade 6 students, & administrators in their respective towns during the first-ever Gabay-Magaaral Project launch in San Jose Elementary School in Tacloban City, Maybocog Elementary School in Maydolong, Eastern Samar and Tibungco Elementary in Davao. (Continue to page 24)



## Fil-Am Cultural Events

### 21<sup>st</sup> Paaralan sa Konsulado Underway in New York

Forty Fil-Am kids and teens aged 6-17 are enrolled in the 21<sup>st</sup> Paaralan sa Konsulado (PSK) which commenced on 29 June 2019 at the Philippine Center.

PSK is a flagship project of the Philippine Consulate General in New York in partnership with the Association of the Filipino-American Teachers of America Inc. (AFTA). The project is geared towards the enhancement of cultural awareness and identity of young Fil-Ams by offering classes that provide deeper understanding of their Filipino roots and heritage.

The PSK is an annual summer program and this year, it is being held for five consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. from 29 June to 28 July 2019.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and Mrs. Marilou Cristobal welcome the PSK students to the Independence Day Reception Simulation at the Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center on 6 July 2019.



2<sup>nd</sup> Gabay Mag-aaral Project Workshop, a civic project of the Homecoming sa Konsulado, was held at the Philippine Center on 23 March 2019.

(Continued from page 23... Gabay-Magaaral Project)

Ms. Chiara Abaquin, Master's candidate of Harvard School of Education and a graduate of Elementary Education and Applied Psychology and Human Development from Boston College, served as reactor during the Workshop and gave additional tips and recommendations in building connections and improving communication with the students.

The participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GMP Workshop agreed to further improve the procedures, programs and guidelines, accelerate coordination with the Department of Education, and establish feedback mechanism.

After the Workshop, some participants planned to undertake GMP in their respective towns in 2019 in Ilocos Sur, Batangas, and Leyte. A group of volunteers plan to go back to San Jose, Tacloban City and further engage the students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) development in coordination with the teachers and school administration. Carol Tanjutco, a community leader in New York, will incorporate the GMP in her projects in Mindoro this year.

During the program, the students had the opportunity to connect with their Philippine culture in all of its various forms and explore and improve their creativity and ingenuity through classes in conversational Filipino, Philippine history and geography, Filipino heroes, dance, music, arts, clothing, cuisine and indigenous games. Filipino values and traditions are shared through their activities and interactions with the teachers and volunteers, expert resource speakers, and among the students themselves. Every year, the courses are curated and new modules are added to the traditional set of classes of the PSK as a way of making the learning sessions more current and practical.

During the opening day of the Paaralan, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal underlined four significant reasons in continuing the Paaralan sa Konsulado. He said it is a testament that the Consulate believe in education particularly in teaching the children who never know from birth the land of their heritage; it serves as a driving force for young generation to stay connected with Filipino community and its Filipino values; it opens a window for cultural exchange; and it provides an opportunity for the Consulate to get to know the children and for them to link with the Consulate.

In one of the classes, Consul Arman R. Talbo walked the young students through Philippine history and introduced Filipino heroes like Rizal, Bonifacio, Tandang Sora and Gabriela Silang. He likewise discussed with them ways of honoring and displaying the Philippine flag and what the colors and symbols represent.

On the second Saturday, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal hosted the Experiential Independence Day Luncheon where students and teachers came in their Filipiniana attire. Plated Filipino dishes were served in a simulated Independence Day reception setting. The children were able to put into practice the interesting and new lessons taught by Ambassador Cecilia Rebong who was invited to teach Table Manners and Etiquette as well as formal setting of the table prior to the lunch. (Continue to page 25)





## Fil-Am Cultural Events / Engaging the 2nd Generation Fil-Ams

### Consul General Meets Filipino Law Students in US Northeast

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal met with Filipino lawyers taking up post-graduate studies at select universities in the US northeast on 25 January at the Philippine Center. The students are currently enrolled at Columbia University, New York University, Fordham University, Yale University, and Harvard University. One student from the University of Michigan also attended the event.

Consul General Cristobal noted the steady increase in the numbers of Filipino law students taking masteral programs in the East Coast, particularly in New York, and that the Consulate will continue to reach out to Filipino student groups and help them establish networks with professionals from their chosen professions and with the Filipino-American community in the region. He likewise encouraged them to be the Consulate's partners in assisting members of the Fil-Am community particularly in legal matters.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (6<sup>th</sup> from left, 2<sup>nd</sup> row) with Filipino-American lawyers (1<sup>st</sup> row, L-R) Betheena Dizon of SGV/EY, Connie Montoya (FALA-NY), Amanda Bernardo (FALA-NY), Elizabeth Cueva (NYS DHR), Patricia Sta. Maria (Yale), (2<sup>nd</sup> row) Vice Consul Tanya Faye Ramiro, Graciela Base (Yale), April Lacson (NYU), Agatha Ramos (Columbia), Christine De Castro-Lejano (Columbia), Patricia Peña-Drilon (Columbia), Christian Drilon (Harvard), Tim Dauz (Fordham), Julianne Alberto (University of Michigan), Dr. Nona Helena Palarca, (3<sup>rd</sup> row) Jayson Lopez (Harvard), Alex Custodio (Columbia), Luisa Mauricio (Columbia), and Consul Arman Talbo. (Photo by NYPCG)

The meeting afforded the students the opportunity to listen to insights from practicing Filipino-American lawyers Atty. Elizabeth Cueva of the New York State Department of Human Rights, Atty. Connie Montoya and Atty. Amanda Bernardo of the Filipino-American Lawyers Association in New York (FALA-NY), and Atty. Betheena Dizon of SGV/Ernst and Young, on their experiences practicing law in New York vis-à-vis law practice in the Philippines.

(Continued from page 24... Paaralan sa Konsulado)

The day was also highlighted by the briefing on Drugs Resistance Education or "Iwas Droga" by the highest ranking Fil-Am in the New York Police Department (NYPD) and now criminal and family lawyer Ed Carrasco pointing out the immediate and long-term adverse effects of illegal and misused legal drugs. Detective Eugene Canapi, another Fil-Am in the NYPD who came in his uniform assured the children that policemen can be depended upon for help and assistance. He encouraged the young Fil-Ams to explore careers in law enforcement when they grow up. He distributed NYPD caps to all the inspired students.



Consul General Cristobal and Mrs. Cristobal with the students and teachers after the Independence Day Lunch simulation.

In the afternoon, PSK students and parents also travelled to the Philippines through a simulation trip to the six Philippine heritage sites presented by PDOT Representative Luz Navarro. The day's session was capped by playing indigenous games like luksong tinik, patintero, sungka, hollen, hand clapping, Chinese garter, and sangkayaw.

PSK will offer interesting subjects and activities for the remaining Saturdays including Life of Jose Rizal, Filipino modern heroes, Philippine Festivals, and Tuklas Talino, an essay writing contest about the Philippines. Specific module on Anti-Bullying and Post Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS) for newly-arrived Filipino children to help them navigate the school system and New York as their new home are also in the curriculum.



## Engaging the 2nd Generation Fil-Ams

### Fil-Am High School Leadership Workshop Held at Harvard University



Participants, organizers, and volunteers pose for a group photo during the workshop. The Philippine Consulate General In New York was represented by Consul Arman R. Talbo (2nd row, center). Photo by NYPCG

Thirty-two (32) young Filipino-American students from all over the New England states attended the Filipino-American High School Leadership Workshop held at the Sever Hall of Harvard University on 20 April 2019.

The one day leadership conference featured panels, workshops, and activities where the participating high school students interfaced with young Fil-Am professionals and college students as they discussed their Filipino roots, culture, and traditions and how these impact their student life and future careers. The event was organized and presented by the Philippine American Mainstream Advocacy for Nonpartisan Associations, Inc. (PAMANA), in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in New York, and the Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO). (Continue to page 26)

### "Battle of the Barrios" Held in New Jersey

Fil-Am college students from 16 universities in New York and New Jersey participated in a skit competition at the "Battle of the Barrios XVIII" held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey on 30 March 2019.

Battle Of The Barrios is an intercollegiate competition where schools from all over the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue District III (FIND D-III) come together and have a friendly competition of creativity and talent in a ten-minute skit that highlights originality, humor, modern and cultural dancing. Each team shows off its own character and personality by performing stories and dances related to their Fil-Am identity or to socially relevant issues.

The annual event is organized by the Rutgers Association of Philippine Students (RAPS) and it is one of the most anticipated events by the Fil-Am college community in New Jersey and New York. About 400 students and their parents attended the event.

In his remarks, Consul Arman R. Talbo emphasized the important role of the youth in shaping the future of the Philippines. He informed them of the thrust of the Philippine Consulate General under Consul General Claro S. Cristobal to further enhance and deepen its partnership with Fil-Am youth and student associations.

This year, the combined team of Montclair Unified Filipino American Student Association (MUFASA) from Montclair State University and Filipino American Cultural Entity (FACE) from William Paterson University won the competition.



Consul Arman R. Talbo (front row, 2nd from the right) and Cultural Officer Olive Magpile (front row, left) join this year's winner of the Battle of the Barrios held at the Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. (Photo by NYPCG)



Participants use their creativity and talent in highlighting social issues and their identity as Filipino Americans during the Battle of the Barrios.





## Engaging the 2nd Generation Fil-Ams

(Continued from page 26... HS Leadership Workshop)



The participants present their ideal Philippine Cultural Center design which they designed as part of a workshop activity. Photo by PAMANA

Atty. Jennifer Coliflores Rosenthal, a FYLPRO alumna, and Mr. Philjay Somera Solar co-chaired the planning and preparations for the event which is a first of its kind in the area. They said that the workshop is part of their giving-back project for the community which they hope would empower the Filipino youth and allow their Filipino identity to shine as they pursue their studies.

In his remarks, Consul Arman R. Talbo shared the recent developments and positive news from the Philippines and discussed the services and projects of the Consulate which benefit the Filipino youth and their families. He likewise encouraged the young students to pursue their degrees in college and fulfill their destiny as the hope and future of the country.

Ms. Joy Lim Nakrin, Emmy-nominated anchor for MBC10 Boston, was the keynote speaker and she shared her inspiring experiences as well as the challenges she faced as Fil-Am lawyer and media practitioner. She said that at their age, it is normal for high school students to not fully know what career to pursue but they should take into consideration their passion when deciding and preparing themselves for the future.



Ms. Joy Lim Nakrin shares her inspiring experiences as a Fil-Am media practitioner in Boston. Photo by PAMANA



(L-R) Consul Arman R. Talbo with panelists Czara Venegas, Ellie Tigla, Dr. Renzo Guinto, Alyanna Tenorio, and Michael Vea, a FYLPRO alumnus. The panel discussed the topic, "What is your Filipino story". Photo by PAMANA

## Fil-Am Graduates from US Northeast Recognized at 7<sup>th</sup> PGrad in New York



(3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> from left) Felicity Duran, Kristen Gayagoy, Laura Vega, and Philjay Solar, who are participating in the PGrad's first mentoring program, are flanked by Engr. Quiniones (far left), Consul General Cristobal (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and PGrad mentor Atty. Connie Montoya (far right). (Photo by NYPCG)

Thirty-one Filipino and Filipino-American graduates of associate, bachelor, master and doctorate degrees from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island marched down the Philippine Center's Kalayaan Hall during the 7<sup>th</sup> Philippine Graduation Ceremony (PGrad v2.0) held on Saturday, 8 June 2019. Thirteen other graduates from Harvard were earlier given their PGrad diplomas in another ceremony.

Philippine Consul General Claro S. Cristobal welcomed the PGrad Class of 2019 and honored their scholastic achievements in various fields ranging from business, finance, economics to medical, law, social sciences, education and technology. He expressed how proud he was of the accomplishments of these 44 graduates in raising the image of Filipinos in the US northeast.

(Continue to page 28)



## Engaging the 2nd Generation Fil-Ams

(Continued to page 27...PGrad)

This year's batch is composed of many academic achievers, led by two *summa cum laude* economics graduates Jonathan Coronel from Fordham University and Gabrielle Magallanes from St. John's University; *magna cum laude* graduates Jason Louie Singson (BA in Education, City College of New York) and Iris Dumaul (BA in English, St. John's University); and *cum laude* graduate Blizelle Marie Tormis (BSBA in Health Services Management, Berkeley College).

Engr. Gil Quiniones, President and CEO of New York Power Authority, delivered his keynote address. He related his journey as a mechanical engineering graduate from De La Salle University in Manila starting out at a small energy consultant firm in New York, working at Con Edison for 16 years, and later on serving in several capacities in the public sector, telecommunications and energy industry in New York. Speaking to the graduates about the pathway to success, he urged them that in whatever path they take, they need to stick to their principles and integrity, continue to innovate, and remember that "the ultimate measure of success is not the titles that you have, but what you do with those positions to make a difference in your community."

The graduates were awarded with PGrad diplomas and medals by Consul General Cristobal and Engr. Quiniones and certificates of merit from the Office of New York State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell by Ms. Angela Callisaya.

Mr. Aries dela Cruz, Manhattan Regional Representative for Governor Andrew Cuomo, spoke on behalf of Governor Cuomo and recognized the Filipino community's significant contributions in shaping the rich and diverse cultures of New York. He bestowed the Northern Star Award to Mr. Jonathan Coronel, who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Fordham University Gabelli School of Business with a bachelor's degree in Global Finance and Business Economics.

Sharing his struggles as a transfer student from Ateneo de Manila University coming to Fordham University, Mr. Coronel recognized that his fellow graduates have their own versions of survival. He encouraged them by saying that "for all the times when you feel like you don't belong here, remind yourself of this day when you emerged victorious. It's only going to get tougher from here but I look forward to seeing all of you again and share new chapters of our stories of survival."

This year's PGrad, the Philippine Consulate General has introduced the voluntary mentoring program to connect the graduates with prospective mentors who are experts in the graduates' chosen fields. Consul General Cristobal expressed hope that the one-year mentoring partnership would not just help the graduates enhance their skills and boost their careers but also strengthen their community engagement and collaboration among themselves and with the members of the Fil-Am community. Engr. Quiniones lauded the initiative, citing the important part his many great mentors had influenced his personal life and career.

The mentor-graduate partnership was presented to the audience, with Atty. Concepcion Montoya, partner, employment defense litigator, and counselor at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, mentoring Mr. Philjay Solar, a law graduate from New England Law Boston; Prof. Emilia Zarco who is the Chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Associate Professor at Ruth and Ammon School of Education at Adelphi University, mentoring Ms. Felicity Duran, a graduate of Master of Public Health from New York University; Prof. Angela Reyes, a faculty in the program of Anthropology at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, mentoring Ms. Kristen Gayagoy, a graduate of International Studies with concentration on development, Asian and legal studies from City University of New York; multi-award winning theater producer Jhett Tolentino mentoring Ms. Iris Dumaul; and Mr. Raphael Ignacio, who is a business development consultant for government affairs consultancy Albright Stonebridge Group, mentoring Ms. Laura Vega, a political science graduate from Stony Brook University.



PGrad Class of 2019 with Consul General Claro Cristobal (8<sup>th</sup> from left, first row) and distinguished guests (front row, 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> from left) Angela Callisaya from the Office of NY Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Aries Dela Cruz from Office of NY Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Keynote Speaker



Summa Cum Laude Jonathan Coronel receives Northern Star Award from Mr. Aries Dela Cruz of the Office of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. (Photo by PCGNY)

During the intermission, PGrad Susanna Labangan-Sabangan, who is also the female vocalist of the band Sounds of Manila, rendered "Once It's In Your Heart," a song from the band's album which was composed by legendary composer Cecile Azarcon. A reception and networking event hosted by the Consul General followed after the program.

The PGradv2.0 was organized in cooperation with the Pilipino American Unity for Progress, Inc. (UNIPRO). Consul Arman Talbo and UNIPRO's Kristina London co-hosted the program.





## Public Diplomacy

### Fil-Am Officers of NYPD, FDNY Unfazed by Balut, Videoke at Fellowship with PH Consul General



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (front row, 7th from the left) with Fil-Am officers of the NYPD and FDNY at a fellowship held at the Philippine Center on 25 June 2019. Also present are officers of the Consulate, Department of Tourism, and Philippine Center.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal hosted a meeting and fellowship with Fil-Am officers of the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) at the Philippine Center on 25 June 2019.

The event included a surprise balut-eating contest and videoke challenge but the women and men of NYPD and FDNY readily rose to the challenge. Firefighter Ryan Ocampo won the balut-eating contest over six other competitors when he relished two baluts and a bottle of Philippine beer in under a minute. On the other hand, Police Officer Teresigene D'Augostine easily won the videoke challenge by scoring 94 singing Air Supply's "All Out of Love".

Consul General Cristobal welcomed the officers and praised their important contribution in keeping the city and its residents safe, and in helping further raise the profile of

Filipino-Americans through their service in the NYPD and FDNY. The Consul General encouraged them to keep their connection with their Filipino heritage.

Retired Police Captain Atty. Edward Carrasco, the highest ranking Fil-Am in the NYPD, thanked Consul General Cristobal on behalf of all the attendees for hosting and organizing the fellowship. He said that the event provided a venue for many of them to reconnect with the Philippine Consulate and their fellow officers. Detective Eugene Canapi said that he looks forward to expanding the network of Fil-Ams working in law enforcement.

Twenty Fil-Am officers of NYPD and six from the FDNY who are assigned in different precincts and offices in New York City participated in the gathering.



Fil-Am officers of NYPD and FDNY joined the balut-eating contest, downing two baluts with a bottle of Philippine beer.

### Philippine National Statistician Lisa Bersales Updates Fil-Am Community in US Northeast on Civil Registration and PhilSys ID



National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Dr. Lisa Grace Bernales (3rd from left) is flanked by PSA Director Rosalinda Bautista, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and Atty. Lourdines Dela Cruz of PhilSys Registry Office during a Forum on Civil Registration at the Philippine Center New York. (Photo by Lambert Parong)

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales apprised the Filipino-American community in the US northeast about the recent updates on civil registration in the Philippines and the national ID system during a Forum on Civil Registration organized by the Philippine Consulate General in New York on 8 March 2019.

Dr. Bersales gave an overview of the works of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), including its mandate to conduct statistical surveys relating to the country's economic, social, and demographic profile, administer civil registration functions, and now, the rolling out of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys ID) within the year.

During the open forum, lawyers in the audience raised some of the issues they encounter when submitting their Filipino clients' Philippine civil registry documents to US immigration agency.

(Continue to page 30)



## High Level Visit of Senior PH Gov't Officials



Members of the Filipino-American community and Philippine Consulate Officers and Staff with PSA Officials led by Dr. Lisa Bersales during a Forum on Civil Registration. (Photo by Lambert Parong)

(Continued from page 29... PSA updates)

Among these common problems were the discrepancy in the names, unreadable or blurred entries in the birth or marriage certificates, change of name particularly those who changed their names when they became naturalized US citizens, difference in the naming conventions in the Philippines and US, as well as the lengthy and laborious process of correcting some entries on the civil registry documents.

Dr. Bersales explained that solutions to these common problems have to originate from the municipal or local civil registrar where the life event took place. As PSA is the central repository of all civil registry documents, it can only authenticate those documents submitted by the local civil registrar. She emphasized that although the process is circuitous, the ultimate goal is to ensure the integrity of the documents.

Responding to questions about the PhilSys ID, Dr. Bersales confirmed that PSA is the lead agency that will implement the PhilSys ID. She indicated that the national ID would eventually replace in a span of 5 years the numerous IDs such as, postal, voter's, BIR, PAGIBIG, and SSS IDs. She clarified, however, that it will not replace the passport, driver's license, and PRC license.

Dr. Bersales indicated that the PSA is in the process of procuring a printing agency, saying that PSA is currently in talks with the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) and the APO Production Unit, Inc., both recognized government printers. She revealed that PSA is also considering the possibility of procuring private printing companies, with the assurance that these printers would adhere to the Data Privacy Act since the information to be gathered will include biometrics, full name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, blood type, address, and if one is a Filipino or a resident alien.

When asked if Filipinos overseas can apply for the new ID at any Philippine Embassy or Consulate, Dr. Bersales said that PSA plans to conduct mobile registrations at the Philippine Embassy or Consulate possibly in the next two years. She emphasized that during the initial implementation of the new ID system, PSA would prioritize indigents, people with disabilities (PWD), senior citizens, and government workers in several key areas all over the Philippines.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal who moderated the Forum, encouraged the members of the Fil-Am community to reach out to the Philippine Consulate on any concern about civil registration. He said that the Philippine Consulate looks forward to receiving the PSA when it holds its PhilSys mobile registration for Filipinos in the US northeast in the next two years.

### TCP President Jose C. Clemente III Calls on Consul General in New York



Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) President Jose C. Clemente III paid a courtesy call on Consul General Claro S. Cristobal on 06 June 2019 at the Philippine Center.

Consul General Cristobal and Mr. Clemente discussed the recently signed Republic Act No. 11262 (amending Republic Act No. 9593), which extends the authority of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) to grant incentives to tourism enterprises until 31 December 2029. Among the incentives that TIEZA may grant tourism enterprises include income six-year tax holidays, a five percent preferential tax on gross income, exemption on all taxes and duties on imported capital equipment, as well as exemption of transport equipment and spare parts from tariffs and duties.

Mr. Clemente is also the President of Rajah Tours Philippines, the official partner of the Consulate for the Very Important Pinoy (2019 Ambassadors' Tour) which will be held on 14-21 July 2019. Thirty (30) Fil-Ams from New York area will join the tour. Also present during the meeting was Consul Arman R. Talbo, Post's Economic Officer.





## High Level Visit of Senior PH Gov't Officials

### S&T Secretary Dela Peña Promotes Balik Scientist Program in New York

Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato dela Peña met with Filipino-American scientists and STEM academicians from New York and Massachusetts at a meeting hosted by Consul General Claro S. Cristobal on 25 March 2019 at the Philippine Center New York.

The meeting afforded Secretary Dela Peña the opportunity to apprise the Fil-Am scientists about recent science and technology developments in the Philippines, particularly about the Balik Scientist Program. He highlighted the importance given by President Rodrigo Duterte to the science, technology and innovation sectors in creating an avenue for economic growth throughout the country, reducing inequality, and ultimately improving the lives of the people.

Secretary Dela Peña encouraged the Fil-Am scientists to return to the Philippines and contribute to the nation's development through the new Balik Scientist Program, which was enacted on 15 June 2018. He indicated that the Balik scientists' activities and research have to be in line with DOST priority areas in agriculture, health, and industry. He advised that interested individuals who want to avail of the Program need to submit an application and supporting documents to the appropriate sectoral council of DOST, i.e. for those whose engagement are in agriculture, aquatic or natural resources should forward their application to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD); in health to the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD); and those in industry, energy and emerging technology sectors to the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD).

He presented some of the new products that came out from several DOST-funded research, development and innovation projects, such as the FDA-approved irradiated Carrageenan Plant Growth Promoter (PGP) bio fertilizer for use on rice; the Fish-i technology that uses artificial intelligence in automating fish visual census; the Automated Rapid Reef Assessment System or ARRAS, which can generate a stitched underwater imagery map at a rate of 33 km of coastline per day; the Phil-LiDAR which aims to map the country's flood hazard and major river basins to reduce disaster risks in vulnerable areas; standardized or clinically-tested herbal medicines such as Lagundi, LeptoVax, and Sambong; Biotek-M, an affordable and locally developed rapid test kit for accurate detection of dengue infection within an hour; and the Automated Guideway Transport (AGT) and Hybrid Electric Road Trains, among others.



DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña presents several innovation breakthroughs in Philippine science and technology programs. (Photo by NYPCG)



Philippine DOST Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña (7<sup>th</sup> from left) is flanked from left to right by Consul Ricarte Abejuela, Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate, Emmanuel Codillo, Prof. Emilia Zarco, Analisa Balares, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Engr. Clemente Sison, Jr., Jen Samson, Jaime Ian Rodriguez, and Consul Arman Talbo. (Photo by NYPCG)

He also shared some of the innovation breakthroughs in the Philippine Space Technology Program such as the launching of Diwata-2 on 29 October 2018, which is the Philippines' second micro satellite designed and developed by Filipino scientists and engineers. It is a follow up to Diwata-1, which was launched in 2016 and has put the Philippine flag in space. Another milestone in the country's space science and technology program is the successful launching into space in June 2018 of Maya-1, a first Filipino-made 1U cube satellite.

Secretary Dela Peña revealed several biomedical engineering and health technologies being developed to address the country's immediate needs for affordable, safe and reliable respiratory support, rehabilitation medicine devices, prosthesis, and minimally-invasive surgical equipment. Among these technologies include *Ginhawa* or Relief vent, an affordable ventilator that can be used for both children and adults; *Agapay*, a Robotic Exoskeleton for Upper Extremity Rehabilitation; *Tayo*, a Robotic Rehabilitation for the Lower Extremity; and the Axis Knee System, an FDA-approved, safe and affordable knee replacement system made for Filipino and Asian knees.

Most of the Fil-Am scientists who attended the meeting have expressed interest in the Balik Scientist Program and have indicated plans to pursue collaborative research with a higher education institution in the Philippines.

Earlier that day, Secretary Dela Peña met with Dean Michael Purugganan of New York University's (NYU) Faculty of Arts and Science, where he was given a briefing on the science program and facilities of NYU. Also present in the meeting were Consul General Claro Cristobal and Consul Arman Talbo.

Secretary Dela Peña also visited the NYU Tandon School of Engineering where he was shown the facilities and different laboratories of the school. Secretary Dela Peña studied in Tandon School when it was still known as the Polytechnic Institute of New York.



## High Level Visit of Senior PH Gov't Officials

### Forum on LRA Functions and Land Titling Updates in the Philippines Held in New York

Land Registration Authority Deputy Administrator Robert Nomar V. Leyretana informed the Filipino-American community in the US northeast about the functions of the LRA and discussed land titling updates in the Philippines at a forum organized by the Philippine Consulate General in New York on 29 March 2019.

More than sixty (60) members of the Filipino-American community in the US northeast, many of whom are lawyers and landowners in the Philippines, participated in the event.

Deputy Administrator Leyretana gave an overview of the general functions and mandates of the LRA and the Registry of Deeds (RD), the processes involved in buying, transferring and registering titled and untitled lands, settling an estate belonging to a deceased person, and LRA's Mapping Solutions and Services.



Members of the Filipino-American community raise questions on registration and transfer of certificate of title during focus Group Discussion on LRA Functions and Land Titling Updates in the Philippines. (Photo by NYPCG)



Members of the Filipino-American community and Philippine Consulate Officers led by Consul General Claro S. Cristobal with LRA Deputy Administrator Robert Nomar V. Leyretana during a Focus Group Discussion on LRA Functions and Land Titling Updates.

He said that LRA is the central repository of records relative to original registration of lands. It issues decrees of registration pursuant to final judgments of the courts in land registration proceedings and cause the issuance by the Registers of Deeds of the corresponding certificates of title.

He also discussed LRA's Land Titling Computerization Program (LTCP) which aims to **secure titles and documents, prevent duplicates and overlaps, standardize processes, fees, and requirements, create an up-to-date information and records which will be available anytime and anywhere, and improve disaster recovery and business continuity.**

### NEDA Secretary Ernesto Pernia Highlights Higher Growth Trajectory for Philippine Economy at Town Hall in New York

The Philippine Consulate General in New York organized a town hall meeting featuring Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia of Socioeconomic Planning and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on 3 April 2019 at the Philippine Center in New York.

Secretary Pernia presented the Philippine economy's recent performance and prospects for the medium- and long-term period, emphasizing the goals of providing Filipinos with a "*matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay*" (strongly rooted, comfortable and peaceful life).

He cited that the Philippines is among the fastest growing major economies in Asia, with 6.2% GDP growth for 2018. He likewise discussed the impact of increased public infrastructure spending for 2017-2022, citing that this will have an accumulative effect of a 4.6% increase in GDP and will generate 660,000 additional jobs for Filipinos.

The meeting was attended by members of the Filipino-American community, business groups, and Fil-Am media. The discussion was livestreamed through Facebook. Viewers from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey participated during the open forum.

Secretary Pernia and Undersecretary Juan Antonio A. Perez III of the Commission on Population (POPCOM), who answered questions relating to population, are in New York for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission Population and Development at the United Nations Headquarters.



NEDA Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia (center) and POPCOM Undersecretary Juan Antonio A. Perez III (right) updates the Filipino community in US northeast about recent economic developments in the Philippines at a town hall meeting moderated by Philippine Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (left). (Photo by NYPCG)



Secretary Pernia responds to questions raised by members of the Fil-Am community during a town hall meeting in New York.





## Political Diplomacy

### First-ever Fil-Am Academic Networking Launched in New York

Sixteen Filipino-American members of the academe from various disciplines in 13 universities in the US Northeast gathered at the Academic Networking brunch hosted by Consul General Claro S. Cristobal at his residence on Saturday, 2 March 2019.

In his welcome remarks, the Consul General thanked the members of the academe and shared with them the new initiative of the Consulate to meet and get to know the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the different colleges and universities. The academic networking aims to start a conversation with them on how the Philippine Consulate could facilitate activities that will benefit the Fil-Am students and the academe. It also aspires to explore ideas and interests in linking PH and US academic institutions for research or exchange programs.

The professors shared with the group their respective academic disciplines, their interests and ideas for the Filipino and Fil-Am students in the US, as well as possible assistance to the students and institutions in the Philippines. They agreed to create a coordination group to be composed of volunteers from among themselves to initiate the work and outline the plans.

Present at the brunch were President of St. John's University, Conrado Gempesaw, Dean Faustino Cruz of Fordham University and Dean Evangeline Manjares of Nassau Community College. Also present were Professors of Adelphi University-Emilia Zarco; CUNY-Jennifer Delfino; College of Mount Saint Vincent - Noel Pangilinan; Farleigh Dickinson University - John Cinco; Fashion Institute of Technology - Lorenza Wong; Fordham University - Donna Mae Odra; John Jay College - Kevin Nadal; New York University/Hunter College - Luis Francia; Rutgers University - Allan Punzalan Isaac; and Seton Hall University - Cherubim Quizon. Dr. Nerissa Calub of the New York Department of Education also participated in the brunch.



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal hosted an academic networking brunch at the Consul General's residence on 2 March 2019 which aims to establish links with Filipino-Americans in the academe and explore ideas and interests in linking PH and US academic institutions for research or exchange



Participants to the Academic Networking enjoy a simple Filipino brunch catered by Chef Jappy Diago Afzelius of Tsismis, a soon-to-open Filipino Restaurant in Midtown Manhattan.

### Discussions on Plight of PH Indigenous People Held in New York

Leaders and representatives of different tribes of indigenous people (IP) from Mindanao held discussions with the theme *"Breaking the Silence: Telling the Truth. The Narrative of Struggle, Deception and Assertion of the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines"* detailing their plight in the hands of CPP-NPA-NDF during their visit in New York recently.

The group met with Fil-Am community representatives in Queens on 29 June where they said that the CPP-NPA-NDF is committing human rights violations against members of the indigenous people. They narrated first-hand accounts of their harrowing experience with the armed groups.

The group likewise held a media briefing followed by a Focus Group Discussion facilitated by Consul General Claro S.

Cristobal at the Philippine Center on 2 July. The events were attended by members of the media and leaders and members of the Fil-Am community in New York. The IP leaders detailed the abuses and atrocities committed against them personally and as a group by the CPP-NPA-NDF and their cohorts. They asked the community not to support groups that are contributing to these attacks against the *katutubo* or *lumad*.



Leaders and representatives of indigenous people from Mindanao were joined by officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate and members of the Fil-Am community during the Focus group discussion held at the Philippine Center on 2 July 2019.

On 3 July, the group held a Focus Group Discussion with students, faculty and community members at Fordham University where the tribal leaders rallied them to help disseminate their stories in the US especially among their fellow students and the youth sector. After each event, the IP group thanked their audience through a cultural performance showing their traditional songs and dances. The tribal leaders are making their way across the United States to call on the international community and share the true narrative of their plight back home.



## Economic Diplomacy

### Philippine Consulate General in New York's Economic and Development Discourse with NYU Graduate Class

The Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) held an intimate briefing and discussion with the New York University graduate class on "Institutions, Governance, and International Development" led by Professor Salo Coslovsky last 16 January at the Philippine Center Boardroom.

Consul General Claro S Cristobal welcomed the attendees, expressing his enthusiasm in sharing the work that the Consulate does on behalf of the government, and in service of the Filipino-Americans. He noted that he takes delight in promoting the Philippines to the mainstream audience, "to celebrate our similarities rather than our differences."

Consul Khryстина Corpuz Popov gave a short overview of the functions of the PCGNY. She described how the work programs contribute in the fulfillment of the three pillars of the Philippine foreign policy, including the services and assistance delivered to Filipino-Americans, and the promotion of the Philippines' and Filipinos' interests in political, economic and cultural diplomacy.

Senior Trade Representative Nicanor Bautista presented a brief outlook of the Philippine economy and trade, highlighting the country's partnership with the United States and other international players.

The students provided an engaging discussion with questions such as economic prospects under the administration of President Trump, the Filipino diaspora and cultural diversity, and the Philippines' geo-political relationship with its international allies.



Consul General Claro S Cristobal (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) presided over a brief discussion about the Philippines with Consul Khryстина Corpuz Popov (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Senior Trade Representative Nicanor Bautista (leftmost) for the New York University graduate class of Professor SaloCoslovsky (4<sup>th</sup> from left)



Consul General Cristobal (leftmost) addresses a student's question during a briefing with the New York University graduate class field visit at the Philippine Consulate

### Philippine Business and Investment Promotion Held in New York

Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning Ernesto Pernia and President and CEO of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Vivencio Dizon led the Philippine delegation in various business and investment promotion meetings held in New York on 8-9 April 2019.



(Clockwise) Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Senior Trade Representative Nicanor Bautista, Albright Stonebridge Group's VP for ASEAN Meredith Miller, ASG's AGS's Chairman Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary Ernesto Pernia, & BCDA president & CEO Vivencio Dizon during their meeting held recently in NY.

In the said meetings, Secretary Pernia presented the bright economic prospects of the Philippines and discussed the projects and reforms being implemented by the government to sustain the rapid economic growth of the country.

On the other hand, Mr. Dizon focused on the developments in Clark and the government's Build, Build, Build projects. He encouraged investors to setup their businesses in the Philippines, particularly in Clark, due to its strategic location and the infrastructure developments happening in the area.

As a result of these meetings, several businessmen and investors have expressed interest in considering the Philippines as an investment destination and they are expected to visit the country within this year to further look into the operational details.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Senior Trade Representative Nicanor Bautista, and Consul Arman R. Talbo also participated in the meetings and assisted the Philippine delegation. The Consulate and PTIC-NY will continue the discussion with interested businesses and follow through the gains established by the successful visit of Secretary Pernia and Mr. Dizon.





## Economic Diplomacy

### Philippine Consulate Hosted New York City Women Entrepreneurs' Conference: Get Your Business Funded

The Philippine Consulate General in New York hosted on 22 June 2019 the *WE Master Money Conference: Get Your Business Funded* which was organized by the Women Entrepreneurs NYC, an initiative of the NYC Department of Small Business Services dedicated to empowering and helping women start and grow their business.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal welcomed the more than 80 women coming from the diverse NYC community. Most of them are either in the early stages of their business, are looking to expanding their business or interested in opening a business. He expressed hope that Filipino and Fil-Am women would take advantage of the WE NYC programs and what the city offers, emphasizing that with New York being the world's media capital, it is a good place to build their personal and business brands.



Women participants during the We Master Money Conference held at the Philippine Center New York. (Photo by PCG NY)

The one-day conference afforded the participants the opportunity to get practical and inspirational insights from the distinguished women entrepreneurs and mentors. Ramona Cedeno, founder of FiBrick Financial Services – a certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) accounting practice, talked about what potential investors and lenders are looking before making a decision to invest in a company. Tuesday Brooks, founder of Ajoy Management Consulting, spoke about the conventional and alternative sources of funding that they can tap into. #KillerPitchMastercommunicator Precious Williams, founder of Perfect Pitches by Precious, revealed to them the art and science of the “killer” pitch that will help them “slay all competition” and keep their business top of mind. Sanja Jhankar, co-founder of Luminoustudios, demonstrated how to create an effective and high quality crowdfunding videos for a successful crowdfunding campaign. Katie Klencheski, founder of SMAKK Studios, imparted how they can tell their story in a way that defines the brand's value, connect it to the audience, and explain what differentiates it from competitors.

One-on-one free credit consultations were also offered throughout the day, where participants were able to consult with volunteer financial counselors and got personalized assistance on how to build, repair and improve their personal credit.

WE NYC Director Diana Franco and Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville Tate co-hosted the conference.



(L-R) We NYC Director Diana Franco, FiBrick Founder Ramona Cedeno, #KillerPitchMaster Precious Williams, Ajoy Consulting Founder Tuesday Brooks, SMAKK Studios Founder Katie Klencheski and Luminoustudios co-founder Sanja Jhankar talk during the We Master Money Conference at the Philippine Center.



Special Trade Representative Nicanor S. Bautista (left) with representatives of Brandexports Philippines, Inc. during the 2019 Summer Fancy Food Show held on 23-25 June 2019 at Javits Center, New York. (Photo by Troi Santos)

### PH Participates in NY Summer Fancy Food Show 2019

Philippine exporters and their importer/distributor partners joined the Summer Fancy Food Show 2019 held at New York's Jacob Javits Convention Center from 23 to 25 June 2019.

The Summer Fancy Food Show is the largest specialty food industry event in North America, and the premier showcase for industry innovation. This annual event featured major international food brands as well as food innovations and trends of different products.

Special Trade Representative Nicanor S. Bautista attended the three-day event and assisted participants from the country's major exporters and their US-based importers such as Profood International Corp., Monde M.Y. San Corporation, Brand exports Philippines, Inc., Theo & Philo Chocolate Factory, Inc., SL Agritech Corporation, Willy Farms, See's International Food Manufacturing Corporation, and M Lhuillier Food Products, Inc.



## Assistance to Nationals (ATN)

### Philippine Consulate General in NY Hosts Know Your Rights Seminar on Immigration

The Philippine Consulate General in New York hosted a Know Your Rights Seminar on Immigration and Free Legal Clinic at the Philippine Center in New York on 30 March 2019. The seminar was attended by Fil-Com leaders, volunteer lawyers and other community and church-based migrant advocates.

Mr. Jack Lally of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) focused his presentation on the services that are available to all New York residents. Mr. Lally emphasized that the city supports all New Yorkers and services are available to everyone, including undocumented immigrants. The City's programs include assistance for education, health care, immigration legal help, public safety and the IDNYC. Mr. Lally categorically said that "City will not ask about immigration status unless it is necessary to do its job". He further said that "any information on immigration status are kept confidential."

During the workshop, the Consul General signified the Philippine Consulate willingness to partner with the Office of the Mayor on the issuance of New York City ID to those Filipinos, documented or otherwise, who are qualified. The Consul General further offered the Philippine Center as enrollment center for the IDNYC. Mr. Lally promised to coordinate the matter with the Consulate as soon as possible.

Ms. Gloria Garcia, Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau of the New York County District Attorney's made her presentation regarding immigrant fraud and expressed the determination of her office in combatting fraud and their continued effort to stamp out schemes which victimizes vulnerable individuals.

Atty. Edward Carrasco, former NYPD Deputy Inspector and the highest ranking Fil-Am in the history of the NYPD, discussed recent immigration developments in the United States, particularly on changes on rules and regulations on immigration. In his capacity as former NYPD officer, Atty. Carrasco also provided pointers on how to act appropriately with police officers, particularly when confronted by police authorities or when pulled-over by traffic police.

The Consul General expressed his thanks to the panelists and participants and reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that migration concerns remain a major policy concern of the Philippine Consulate as it affects the well-being of all Filipinos in the US Northeast. To enable participants to further discuss their immigration concerns and issues, a legal clinic was held immediately after the workshop.



(L-R) Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate, Gloria Garcia of NY County District Attorney's Office, Atty. Edward Carrasco, Mr. Jack Lally, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, & Consul General Claro S. Cristobal.

### Pinoy's Love of Basketball Highlighted in the Successful Launch of the PHL Basketball Clinic

What better way to engage with the Filipino-American Community in the US Northeast Region than to appeal to the innate Pinoy exuberance towards basketball. The PHL Basketball Team, under the auspices of the Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) held its maiden PHL Basketball Clinic on 5 May 2019 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Gym in Jersey City, New Jersey. Mr. Ryan A. Compendio, PCGNY's Records, Communications and Information Officer, served as one of the coaches.



A couple of the coaches (standing in white and in red) giving final instructions before ending the 1st Basketball Clinic Session (Photo by NYPCG)

The PHL Basketball Team is composed of personnel from the PCGNY, their family members and friends, who have all volunteered to teach and share their technical knowledge of basketball.

The bulk of the participants come from the New Jersey-New York area. A total of 40 participants composed of young players ranging from 3 to 14 years old, participated in the first day of the 4-day clinic. The children's parents, relatives, and friends were present to cheer them on as the children ran through basketball drills designed to improve footwork, passing, dribbling, and shooting ability.

The event is the result of the Philippine Consulate General's recognition of the concept of a sound mind in a sound body, as well as its commitment to its Sports Diplomacy program.

(Continue to page 37)





## Sports Diplomacy

### Consulate General in New York supports successful PHL Basketball Clinic

The Philippine Consulate General in New York supported the recently concluded 1st PHL Basketball clinic and awarding certificates to the participants at ceremonies held during the last day of the 5-day event on 16 June 2019 at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Gym in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The clinic was managed by some members of the PHL Basketball team, who volunteered to teach and share their skills and knowledge of basketball, Ryan A. Compendio, PCGNY's Records, Communications and Information Officer, served as one of the coaches.

A total of 48 young players ranging from 3 to 16 years old, mostly from the New Jersey-New York area, benefited from the clinic. The event is the part of the Philippine Consulate General's commitment to its Sports Diplomacy program and its recognition of the concept of a sound mind in a sound body for Fil-Am children.

The children ran through basketball drills designed to improve their footwork, passing, dribbling, and shooting abilities. The program also taught the players the value of good sportsmanship, proper attitude to make them team players with important roles to play, and determination to perform their roles to the best of their abilities. It also inspired them to be humble in victory, and gracious in accepting defeat.



The Philippine Consulate General in New York distributed certificates to the participant of the 1st PHL Basketball Clinic through Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate and Consul Arman Talbo, assisted by the PHL Basketball Coaches and Volunteers (Photo by Robby Manubay)

The highlights of the clinic were the 5-on-5 basketball games where the children experienced playing the normal full court game, while their parents, relatives, and friends cheered them on as they were able to execute moves that they have learned. The coaches also played with the older kids giving them a taste of playing competitive basketball.

Different Fil-Am groups and organizations supported the project PHL Basketball Team, Jersey City Athletic Association, 360 Fitness, RGX Sportswear, Noodlefan, Team United, JCI New Jersey and the Pan American Concerned Citizens Action League.



Participants playing against their coaches in 5-on-5 basketball game scrimmage (Photo by Beverly Pellosis)

(Continued from page 37.. PHL B-ball Clinic)

The event is the result of the Philippine Consulate General's recognition of the concept of a sound mind in a sound body, as well as its commitment to its Sports Diplomacy program.

The clinic instructs kids on the skills necessary to be better players. More than that however, the program aims to teach players the right attitude to make it as team members, and that everyone has a role to play, even if it is only a small role, and in so doing, to perform that role to the best of their abilities. Sports teaches leadership, teamwork and camaraderie. It also teaches to be humble in victory, and accepting in defeat.

The basketball clinic was made possible through the support and help of PHL Basketball Team, the Jersey City Athletic Association, 360 Fitness, RGX Sportswear, Noodlefan, Team United, JCI New Jersey and the Pan American Concerned Citizens Action League.

The Basketball Clinic will ran every Sunday of the month of May from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Participants, aged 3 - 4 yrs old being taught on basic stance



Participants, aged 10 - 12 yrs old, carrying out "ball handling drills"



Participants, aged 9yrs old, doing dribbling drills while being supervised by the assigned Coach



## NYP CG Consular Outreaches & Consulate Saturdays

### Philippine Consulate General in New York Holds Its First Consulate Saturday for 2019



The 1st batch of customers arrives at the Philippine Consulate General.

The Philippine Consulate General in New York held its 1<sup>st</sup> Consulate Saturday for the year on 09 February 2019.

A total of 148 consular services were entertained – an increase of 26.50% from last year. “This could indicate that more of our *kababayans* now regularly check our website and Facebook page for consular updates,” Consul General Claro S. Cristobal said.

In addition to the usual consular services offered by the Consulate, the Pag-IBIG desk, managed by Mr. Michael F. Azucena, was also open to entertain queries and transactions. The 1<sup>st</sup> Consulate Saturday coincided with the annual General Assembly of Fil-Am Community leaders.

### Philippine Consulate General in New York Holds Its First Consular Outreach for 2019 in Stratford, New Jersey

The Philippine Consulate General in New York, in partnership with the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey (PCSNJ), held its first Consular Outreach for the year on 04 March 2019 in Stratford, New Jersey.

A total of more than 130 consular services were entertained. Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate led the nine-person team.

Despite the storm that blanketed the New York-New Jersey area with snow that day, a large and enthusiastic crowd still managed to make their way to the PCSNJ's headquarters to avail of the Consulate's services. The Filipino community of Stratford expressed their satisfaction with the results of the consular outreach with one saying: “Processing was in order and neatly planned” and another saying “very efficient.”



Deputy Consul General (DCG) Kerwin Orville C. Tate (front and center), Diana Bondad, President of Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey (seated on the left of DCG Tate) with members and volunteers of the consular outreach team strike a pose after a successful consular outreach.

At the start of the day's program, Deputy Consul General Tate delivered information on passport developments as well as the Consulate's latest programs and projects to the community. He also reminded them of the upcoming Senatorial and Party-list elections, which for overseas voters will be from 13 April to 13 May 2019.

### Philippine Consulate General in New York Delivers Services to Rochester, Albany



(Left):: Philippine Consulate Team members with the officers of the Filipino American Association of Rochester.

The Philippine Consulate General in New York, working together with the Filipino American Association of Rochester (FAAR), and the Albany Medical Center held the second and third Consular Outreach missions for the year on 13 and 14 April 2019 in Rochester and Albany, New York, respectively.

On the lovely spring weekend, hundreds of Filipinos turned up to avail themselves of the services offered by the Consulate General. A total of more than 230 consular services were given due course. Deputy Consul General Kerwin Orville C. Tate led the nine-person team.

During his interaction with the Filipino community, Consul Tate thanked the sponsoring organizations, and informed them about the Consulate's upcoming activities. Consul Tate also emphasized the importance of the Philippine elections, and encouraged registered voters to cast their votes as early as possible, in order to make their voices heard in the elections.





## NYPCG Consular Outreaches & Consulate Saturdays/ Philippine Center News

### Philippine Consulate General Holds Outreach Mission in Massachusetts

The Philippine Consulate General provided consular services to hundreds of overseas Filipinos and Filipino Americans in the New England states during its outreach mission held in Needham, Massachusetts from 4-5 May 2019.

The outreach team led by Consul Arman R. Talbo rendered 317 services during the two-day outreach, including 149 passport applications, 68 legal documents, and 72 applications for dual citizenship. The team also accepted and processed 28 reports of birth of Fil-Am children.

The outreach was held in partnership with community leader Mr. Rudy Hermosa, the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) in New England, and with the support of other Fil-Am groups and associations in the area like PAMANA.

Some members of the community expressed their appreciation for the outreach program because they no longer needed to travel for 5-6 hours to New York to renew their passports and secure necessary documents.



Consul Arman R. Talbo (front row, 3rd from the left) and the Consulate's outreach team with community leaders in Massachusetts led by Mr. Rudy Hermosa (2nd from the left) and Ms. Victoria Pike (4th from the left), president of PNA-New England.

### Philippine Center in New York Hosts Fishers of Men Art Exhibit



Consul General Cristobal (L) delivers his remarks at the opening of the exhibit Fishers of Men at the Philippine Center.

Cebu-based artist Gil Francis Maningo and New York-based Alfonso Ompod, Jr. made a promise when they were students in the UP College of Fine Arts that they will hold a joint exhibit of their art works. Forty years later, their promise was fulfilled when their Fishers of Men exhibit at the Philippine Center opened on 22 January 2019.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal praised the works of the two artists, describing the pieces as "superlative". He underscored the importance of Filipino art as a means of embodying our aspirations as a people and a tool in promoting our culture.

Maningo is a painter, photographer, composer, singer, actor, caricature artist, and the man behind the T-shirt brand KULAS (Kusog Ug Ligi-on Ang Sugbuanon). Ompod is now based in New York where he incorporates his signature fishbone in his drawings and paintings. Their exhibit was organized by Mr. Ping Panlilio, an art and antique enthusiast in New York. The exhibit ran until 1 February 2019.

### Young Fil-Am Artists Exhibit Work at the Philippine Center

Fifteen (15) young Fil-Am artists and writers held the opening reception of their art exhibit entitled *"The First Picture of You, 1990"* at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center on 27 April 2019.

The concept of *The First Picture of You, 1990* is taken from a chapter of Elaine Castillo's novel, *America Is Not The Heart*. The artists featured in the exhibition created work responding to the idea of their "first picture" and used the mundane objects and routines of everyday life in creating their art.

The opening exhibit was organized by Dogeater Collective, a group of young Fil-Am artists and writers based in New York City. The group takes its name from the Novel Dogeaters by Jessica Hagedorn, as their way of reclaiming and redefining their identity.



Some of the featured artists during the opening reception of their exhibit at the Philippine Center (Standing, L-R) James Bascara, Kristianne Molina, Consul Arman R. Talbo, Jeanne F. Jalandoni, Roberto Jamora, Paloma Martinez-Miranda (Kneeling, L-R) Jessica Jacolbe, Andie Millares, Karl Orozco. Photo by: Dogeater Collective



## NYPCG Family

*Hello and Farewell...***Till we meet again...****KHRYSTINA  
CORPUZ-POPOV**

Consul Khrystina Corpuz Popov was head of the Public Diplomacy Section and engaged in many of the events that involved the 2nd Generation. She concluded her first foreign assignment on January 2019. She also headed the Consular Section early on her assignment. Her social skills earned the friendship and cooperation of the young community leaders as they organized and spearheaded the Philippine Graduation (PGRAD) in the East Coast. She also pioneered a heritage tour for the young Filipino-Americans called Diskubre.

**CHARLIE NABO**

The Consulate's Property Officer Charlie Nabo completed his tour of duty early this year. As Property Officer, he helped in providing and restocking of necessary supplies needed by the Consulate. He was also assigned at the Consular Section and Assistance-to-Nationals section in his earlier stint. His sense of humor and dedication to work are his greatest assets. Never a dull moment when he's around.

Charlie is currently assigned in the Home Office at the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration.

**Welcome to NYPCG...****CONSUL RICARTE B. ABEJUELA III**

Consul Abejuela concluded his assignment as Consul at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago where he was assigned from December 2012 to June 2016. His first foreign assignment was in Manado as Vice Consul, from June 2010 to December 2012.

NYPCG family welcomes with joy its newest officer, Consul Ricarte B. Abejuela III. He is currently the head of Consular Section and Chairman of the Overseas Voting. His knowledge and experience on consular matters from his previous assignment in the Home Office as Passport Director where he spearheaded many programs, in particular the appointment system will definitely benefit Post and our consular applicants.

**NELVIN EDUARDO**

Nelvin joined the NYPCG family early this year and is currently assigned as assistant at the political and economic section. He studied Political Science at the University of the Philippines and Bachelor of Laws at the Arellano University. Prior to New York, he was assigned in the Home Office at the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs. We wish you all the best on your first foreign assignment.

**Ka'akbay** is a publication of the Consulate General of the Philippines in New York

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