

## June historical celebrations in the Fil-Can community

June is undoubtedly an important month for all Filipinos wherever they may live. Recent statistics indicated that approximately a million Filipinos have made Canada their adopted country. On March 15, 2019, MP Salma Zahid of Scarborough Centre sponsored a bill to recognize the contributions of Filipinos to the economic and social development of the country. On October 30, 2018, she led her fellow MPs in a unanimous vote of 290 in favor and none against Motion 155 which declared the month of June of each year as Filipino Heritage Month that started on June 1, 2019 across Canada.

In Montreal, the CDN-NDG Borough through the initiative of Mr. Marvin Rotrand proposed a resolution, seconded by Lionel Perez, to declare June as Filipino Heritage month, in the Borough Council meeting held in February 2018. This was just two months after the city of Toronto passed a similar motion to declare June as Heritage Month. Councilor Neethan Shan of Ward 42, Scarborough Rouge River, tabled the motion before the City Council that passed it in December 2017. Ontario is the province with the most number of



Filipinos increasing by 14.2% from 295,700 to 337,760 or 40.3% of the total number of Filipinos in Canada according to latest statistics.

On June 5, 2018 Alberta government leaders also declared June as Filipino Heritage Month.

June is an important month as it coincides with the Philippine independence declared by General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898 in Kawit, Cavite which did not last long as the Filipino revolutionaries lost their battle with the Americans during the Filipino-American war that lasted three

years. The Americans granted Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946. However, a Philippine president changed this date to June 12. President Diosdado Macapagal issued Proclamation No. 28, s. 1962, effectively moving the date of Philippine independence from July 4 to June 12—the date independence from Spain was proclaimed in Emilio Aguinaldo's home in Kawit, Cavite. Macapagal said the recognition of the independence of a nation should not be accorded by any other country but itself.



In Quebec, there are 35,680 Filipinos who mostly live in urban centers. In Montreal, approximately 30,000 live and work in the CDN-NDG Borough. It is also in this area that the traditional Philippine Independence Day parade is usually sponsored by the CCFAQ (Council of Canadian Filipino Associations of Quebec) and the barrio fiesta usually sponsored by FAMAS (Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs). For the past two years due to the Covid 19

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## Opposition parties getting ready for the next QC elections

At the end of the current legislative session of the Quebec National Assembly, two opposition party leaders announced their intentions to run their first election. Dominique Anglade, Liberal Party leader, and Paul Saint-Pierre Blamondon of the Party Québécois (PQ). These leaders will have to manage the departure of a large number of pillars of their political parties. Despite this fact, the two leaders were confident on Friday when they assessed their political achievements at the close of the parliamentary session. Both also targeted François Legault and his government.

For Dominique Anglade, the CAQ government is arrogant and divisive. "Arrogance that puts partisan interests ahead of Quebecers. Arrogance that did not listen to experts or the opposition ... Arrogance that thinks itself above the law." She also stated that the Legault government has systematically denied issues that

affect Quebecers on a daily basis, including economic hardship, a shortage of family physicians, childcare places and the workforce, as

well as environmental problems.

The election campaign isn't slated to officially begin until the end of August.



**Dominique Anglade kicked off an early release of her pre-election platform, Saturday, June 11, 2022 during a general council meeting attended by 400 members. Behind her are David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy McGee and Pierre Arcand, MNA for Mount Royal-Outremont.**

Surrounded by members of her party, who applauded and heckled at every turn, Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ) Leader Dominique Anglade insisted she sees herself as the leader of a Liberal majority government on Oct. 3, with at least 63 elected members.

There are currently 27, half of whom plan not to seek re-election.

The Liberal leader says she intends to win over voters by bringing people together, calling Premier François Legault's leadership divisive and arrogant as he "thinks he is above the law."

Anglade has been steering the Liberal ship for the last two years and says she is keen to renew the party's image and direction, which was greatly weakened in the last election.

She now seems to want to return to the basis of what has made her party successful in the past: federalism and the economy.

See page 6 Opposition parties





From the Editor's desk

## Why we should be concerned about Bill 96

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

In a democracy, we cherish our rights and freedoms. We also have the duty as well as the privilege to vote freely in electing our government leaders who will be trusted with the responsibility of passing laws that are fair or just for the welfare of all citizens regardless of race, creed or religion.

At the present time, we have seen a number of instances which we do not expect to occur in a country like Canada. Over the past several years, we have seen different laws passed in the province of Quebec that are not only controversial but also considered discriminatory against cultural communities and minorities. The latest instances are Bills 21 and 96 which are considered heavy-handed and "illegal" because they contravene some provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Quebec Charter of Rights. Premier Legault is known to be the only premier who has preemptively used the notwithstanding clause to protect these bills from any constitutional challenge.

Most of us are not legal experts but we still have to understand what we are being subjected to. According to most legal opinions, Bill 96 poses the danger to our rights of

privacy as it has given unobstructed authority to the inspectors of the OLFQ (Office de la langue française du Québec) to go to our office, seize anything they wish to prove that we are in contravention of the law that stipulates using French in all our business transactions. They do not need to get any warrant to do this. Is there anything else more frightening than this?

Bill 96 will affect our life in almost all important areas specially in education, healthcare, and judiciary services. Judges do not need to speak English at all. What happens if a person cannot communicate in French? This would be tantamount to being judged guilty before proving his innocence because he would never be able to understand nor defend his rights when faced with a judge who does not speak his language.

Most people will agree that Quebec itself as a province is not racist, but the laws being passed by the current government are. It is our duty to voice our concerns and ask our political leaders to do the right thing - challenge these bills in the courts to have them nullified or withdrawn, in spite of the notwithstanding clause.

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*The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star nor its editors.*

## B'nai Brith Says Bill 96 Harms Jewish Community in Quebec

Communique: June 13, 2022

Source: B'nai Brith Canada

Information: Marvin Rotrand 416 633 6224 x 121

B'nai Brith today made public its opposition to Bill 96, a law that it sees as detrimental to the interests of Quebec's Jewish population.

Jews today number some 90,000 in the province. Jews have lived in Quebec for centuries with the first congregation being established in 1768. But laws adopted by the Quebec National Assembly can send a negative message to the community. Montreal not so long ago was the most populous Jewish community in Canada with a peak Jewish population of 125,000 in 1971.

Montreal has seen its Jews departing for decades, driven out largely by the antagonism to minority rights by successive provincial governments. Montreal's loss has been Toronto's gain with Jews helping fuel that city's spectacular growth of the last half century.

Bill 21 adopted in 2019 purporting to institute religious neutrality in the public sphere by banning overt and conspicuous religious headwear including turbans, hijabs and kippahs prevents observant Jews from being employed as civil servants, judges, doctors, nurses, police officers and teachers.

"No other jurisdiction in North America has a law like Bill 21 that so overtly discriminates against Jews and other religious minorities," said Michael Mostyn, the CEO of B'nai Brith. "Now with the further erosion of the Canadian and Quebec Charters of Rights using the notwithstanding clause to adopt Bill 96, we fear that many segments of the Jewish community will be deprived of important services and that young people will conclude there is no future in this province for them. How ironic, in adopting the Emancipation Act in 1832 Lower Canada as Quebec was then known was among the first jurisdictions to grant Jews full and equal civil rights."

The Jewish community of today in Quebec is more diverse than in the past. Over 20% are francophone. The community is older than the average Canadian Jewish community and includes large segments with a mother tongue that is neither English nor French. Half the community is anglophone. B'nai Brith believes that all segments of the community will be adversely affected by Bill 96

B'nai Brith shares many of the observations already made public by others as to why Bill 96 needs to be opposed. These arguments include:

- Any use of the notwithstanding clause to adopt Bill 96 would allow the province to override basic freedoms guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Rather than applying the clause to specific sections

to the bill, the government has applied the clause to the entire bill, in an attempt to shield every aspect of the law from legal challenges based on the Charter.

- The use of the notwithstanding clause to adopt Bill 96 allows the province to override basic freedoms guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Rather than applying the clause to specific sections of the bill, the government has applied the clause to the entire bill, making every aspect of the law supposedly shielded from legal challenges based on the Charter.

- Unlike the Quebec Charter of Rights, the Canadian Charter cannot be modified by the act of a single legislature. Bill 96 attempts to do just that. The amending formula in the Canadian constitution suggests Bill 96 is illegal.

- Bill 96 does not focus on improving the quality of French in schools or supporting people to strengthen their French language skills but by attacking English language rights.

- Bill 96 offers no explicit exemption for the health and social services networks obliging all sectors of Quebec's civil administration from service centres issuing driver's license to municipal permits offices to hospitals to exclusively use French in written and oral communication with their clients, subject to exceptions for certain categories of people and circumstance and in certain emergencies.

- Bill 96 limits the right to communicate with government officials in English and restricts the use of English before the courts.

- Bill 96 gives powers to inspectors of the Office québécoise de la langue française that are not consistent with a democratic society and permit search and seizure without warrant or court oversight.

"The Government has not made a case how this law truly strengthens the French language. It simply throws petty roadblocks up for hundreds of thousands of ordinary Quebecers by reducing their access to important daily services. It threatens good Samaritan civil servant who might try to help a senior by speaking a few words of English. It calls on citizens to make anonymous denunciations. That isn't Canada and in fact isn't even a reflection of how Quebecers see themselves," said Marvin Rotrand, B'nai Brith's National Director of its League of Human Rights.

B'nai Brith today introduced two new arguments to mobilize against the law.

Many Quebec Jews are immigrants. There is a significant community of elderly Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. These people are prevented by Bill 96 from accessing services in

See Page 6 B'nai Brith says



## VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES



### Alvin Dahan Veloso

To talk about unity as the Philippines mark its 124 years of Independence from Spain would seem moot and inconsequential, but nonetheless, a relevant issue in contemporary times.

Unity is like "Little drops of water that makes a mighty ocean, and little grains of sand that makes the vast world" the oneness, the joining together in harmony for a common cause.

An ideal concept but elusive, given the diversity of Filipinos, the

## Filipino Unity - Reality or a Dream

centuries of separation and the multiplicity of dialects. The political divide and religious strife that grip the country have only muddled the true image of the Philippines.

The Bangsamoro situation in the south is a case in point, that for years had been seeking political recognition. The Communist insurrection is another social and political headache, an ideological group that in years past, had tried to destabilize the government. Hope for changes is a great challenge to a country riddled with multiple issues of nepotism, greed, power and regionalism; but there's room for optimism if the elected leaders and the government would pursue to resolve the problems.

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,107 islands, blessed with untapped natural resources, verdant forest, majestic mountains and pristine beaches. Foreign tourists view the Philippines as a beautifully manicured group of islands to behold and enjoy.

The colonial city of Manila is the capital. The three major islands are Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with 16 regions and 79 provinces inhabited by 109.5 million people. The original provinces that revolted against Spain were Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Batangas, Laguna and Nueva Ecija.



**Youth and Adult Board members of the Philippine Folk Art Society**

Tagalog (Pilipino), Ilokano, Cebuano, Bikol, Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Ilonggo, and Waray are the eight recognized major dialects. The rest are too numerous to mention: only heaven knows what they are. Pilipino (Tagalog) is the official language of the country. Chabacano, the creole version of French in Louisiana is spoken in Cavite and Zamboanga. Many dialects have a mix of transplanted Spanish words.

Religious beliefs show 93% Christians, 80.6% of whom are Roman Catholics, 5.6 % Islam, 8.2%

Protestants and the rest are at 1.9%. Obviously, it is a varied group trying to evangelize their followers.

The pride in promoting the Filipino identity showed sparks in 1980, when leaders of community organizations in Montreal, Quebec had banded together to form the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ).

The late Aurelio Briones, then president of the Filipino Golden Agers

See Page 7 Filipino Unity



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From p. 1 June historical events

pandemic, celebrations were held virtually. But for this year, FAMAS held an independence ball at the Radisson Hotel on June 11th. The Philippine Independence Day parade also resumed, followed by festivities at the MacKenzie King Park.

The Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal celebrated its founding anniversary at the MacKenzie King Park on June 5th. The Society also had other activities such as the Eucharistic Celebration held at the St. Joseph's Oratory on Friday, June 17th at 6 p.m., a cooking contest at Place Jose Rizal on June 18th followed by a



**MP Anthony Housefather of Mount Royal poses with members of the community at MacKenzie King Park, June 12, 2022 (Facebook post)**



**MP Anthony Housefather of Mount Royal, Grand Marshal for this year's Philippine Independence Day parade sponsored by CCFAQ.(Facebook)**

## FHSM Launching of Filipino Heritage Month

By Jeannette Pérignon, FHSM Secretary

After more than two years of protocols, restrictions, masks, etc. the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) held with pride its first outdoor activity – the Launching of June as Filipino Heritage Month. This was held on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at Place Dr. José Rizal, MacKenzie-King Park, Cote Ste. Catherine, Montréal. Despite unforeseeable challenges like last minute change of venue and the Tour de l'Île de Montréal, thanks to the FHSM team upholding the Bayanihan Spirit, it was a big resounding success!

Elected officials who graced the event were: Mayor of CDN-NDG borough, Gracia Kasoki Katahwa; former councillor of Snowdon and the National Director of B'nai Brith, Marvin Rotrand; MP of Pierrefonds-Dollard, Sameer Zuberi; former MP of Pierrefonds-Dollard and current CEO of Baylis Medical, Frank Baylis; Darlington district councillor and first female Filipino elected in Montreal, Stephanie Valenzuela; and Cote des Neiges district councillor, Magda Popeanu.

Several supporters who came were: the Knights of Rizal Commanders Sir Dario Boco, Sir James de la Paz, Sir

Felix de Luna, Sir Ray Balansi, and Sir Gerry Danzil; English School Board Commissioner Elie Israel; some Filipino organizations like FFCAQ, FNAQ, SWIS, etc. Tenne Rose Dayandante and Michael Davantes from "Pinoy Pa Rin" and CRM, Joselle Mandin were also present.

Before the start of the Programme, the Knights of Rizal commanders marched while holding the three flags (Canada, Quebec, and the Philippines). This was followed by the National Anthems (O Canada and Lupang Hinirang) led by Panday Tinig Chorale Ensemble, with the community singing along. Co-emcees were Editha Fedalizo, Communications Director, and Jeannette Pérignon, Secretary. In the absence of FHSM chairman Al Abdon, Alberto Abiera, FHSM Vice-Chairman gave the Welcome Address. Speeches from invited dignitaries followed, firstly by Mayor Katahwa, then by Marvin Rotrand, Sameer Zuberi, Frank Baylis, Stephanie Valenzuela, and Magda Popeanu. Knights of Rizal commanders gave a brief talk, as well. A cultural presentation from the Aklan Association of Montreal kids with their traditional



**CDN-NDG Borough Mayor Grace Kasoki Katahwa (4th from the right) poses with members of the FHSM and Councilor Stephanie Valenzuela of Darlington (on the left), June 12, 2022 (Facebook post)**

potluck picnic on the same day. A more detailed report about the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal's series of activities is covered by our community news reporter, Fely Rosales Cariño in

the Social Tidbits column and a report by Jeannette Pérignon, secretary of the association. The Toronto community celebrations are reported by Tony San Juan on pages 8 and 9.



**Eucharistic Celebration photo op with the FHSM headed by Al Abdon on the extreme right and the officiating clergy headed by Rev. Fr. Roberto Ruben Elago. (behind, center) Photo credit: Delsys Montreal, June 17, 2022.**



**Paul Imperial, Amelia Manon-og, Luzviminda Mazzone, Rebecca Aguilar, Fely Rosales Cariño, Jeannette Pérignon, Alberto Abiera, Editha Fedalizo, Nancy Karidis, Fely Bisares, Elma Bulatao, Kimberly Gultia, and Ricardo Ribaya.**

costumes was a delight to see: the Ati-Atihan Dance! Panday Tinig sang joyfully "Sa Kabukiran" that made people dance to its inviting melody. Closing remarks were given by Alberto Abiera.

Graced with beautiful, sunny weather, everyone present enjoyed the Launching of June as Filipino Heritage Month with the delicious boxed food supplied by the FHSM. Mabuhay!

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# Opposition mounts against Bill 96 by different groups

Quebec's majority government adopted its contentious language bill overhauling the Charter of the French language, in a vote that lasted only minutes at the National Assembly. Seventy-eight members of the National Assembly voted in favour and 29 voted against, including the members of two opposition parties. The law was adopted at roughly 3:05 p.m. ET. on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Members of Québec Solidaire voted in favour, despite the party expressing unease about the clause in the bill which calls on refugees to learn French within six months of arrival, after which they can no longer access services in another language. The Parti Québécois said the legislation did not go far enough in protecting the French language in Quebec, while Quebec Liberal Party Leader Dominique Anglade denounced the bill's use of the notwithstanding clause, saying it goes too far.

The notwithstanding clause allows a province to override basic freedoms guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Instead of simply applying the clause to specific parts of Bill 96, the government applied the clause to its entirety, making every aspect of the far-reaching law immune to legal challenges based on the charter.

Dissent over Bill 96 had escalated in recent weeks with thousands holding protests, denouncing the bill for impeding the rights of Anglophones, allophones and Indigenous communities

Cree opposition to Bill 96 continues to build with more local and regional leaders saying Quebec's reform of the Charter of the French language fails to recognize Cree treaty rights and will have a negative impact on otherwise good relations with the province.

On top of requiring more French courses to graduate, the legislation also places a cap on the number of students who can attend English-language CEGEPs. It will also limit the use of English in most public services and in the courts.



**Civil rights lawyer Julius Grey said Quebec's existing language law, Bill 101, is already effective when it comes to protecting French and the rights of French speakers in the province. (CBC)**

Bill 96 also holds an exemption that a language other than French can be used "where health, public safety or the principles of natural justice so require" and government officials have said health care services will continue to be available in English. But it is unclear when the exemption can be applied and what the new law means for non-public-facing parts of the health care network.

Russell Copeman, executive director of the Quebec English School Boards Association, says he supports efforts to promote and protect the French language, but describes Bill 96 as "discriminatory" and the cause of "frustration and anxiety" among anglophones and francophone business leaders.

"There are issues to access to justice, access to services in English, access to health and social services," he said. "There are lots of reasons to oppose this bill."

"This controversial legislation amends the Charter of the French Language, 24 other provincial statutes, one regulation, and the Constitution Act, 1867," the network wrote. "The government, it appears, is hoping that Quebecers are not paying attention to the details."

Civil rights lawyer Julius Grey says he expects to take part in the legal challenge, but couldn't say which groups will be taking part yet.

"I hope to be part of the challenge all the way to the UN as we did with Bill 178," said Grey, who said the bill goes too far and violates constitutional and fundamental rights.

"This battle will not be over until the highest courts internationally have spoken."

A group of innovators and entrepreneurs wrote a letter to the CAQ government citing the fact that the law will make it almost impossible to recruit technical workers for their companies.

What are the main criticisms of the law?

There are many. In a nutshell, that in mandating the use of French in more workplaces and government services, it goes too far, that it violates fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right to free expression, the right to procedural fairness and due process, the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, and equality rights guarantees against discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin.

The federal Justice Minister

David Lametti expressed concern about its impact on "the constitutional rights of minorities in Quebec" including the right of access to justice in both official languages as guaranteed under Sec. 133 of the Constitution, particularly in light of Bill 96's obligation on litigants to translate court documents into French; its potential impact on how many English-speaking judges are appointed; and potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous people, guaranteed by Sec. 35 of the Constitution.

He worried about access to health care, the potential impact on immigration, as well as the power of provincial language officials to conduct warrantless search and seizures of private businesses that may violate Charter rights.

References: Various news articles by CBC News, CTV News, Canadian Press, and Montreal Gazette.

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From Page 2 B'nai Brith says

English or in their native tongue from their physicians and health care providers.

"How is French advanced by making it difficult for elderly people from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and elsewhere to receive the best health care possible?

Those our organization serves speak English as a second language, often haltingly," asks Mark Groysberg, President of the United Community of Russian

Speaking Jews of Quebec. "Is the French language advanced when a senior cannot make an informed decision. Why stop a doctor at the Jewish General Hospital from communicating to a patient in his or her native tongue? Does the Government want people to die?"

The United Community of Russian Speaking Jews of Quebec and B'nai Brith say Bill 96 ignores the

From Page 1 Opposition parties

Liberal House Leader André Fortin briefly reviewed the parliamentary proceedings, criticizing the government for its attitude of wanting to go "too fast," with bills that are "all crooked" and "shoved down the throats of parliamentarians."

"We're going into the campaign with our heads held high," said Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, parliamentary leader of Québec solidaire (QS), the second opposition group with 10 MNAs.

Only one of them is leaving: Catherine Dorion of Taschereau.

"We are here to win," he added, saying the party is determined to get the maximum number of MNAs elected on Oct. 3 with "the best team" of candidates in the history of the left-wing party.

Nadeau-Dubois says he believes the polls will move in his favour as Legault "defends his government record."

According to Nadeau-Dubois, Legault has failed to deal with the recent rise in the cost of living, "the worst inflation crisis in 30 years," as well as the climate crisis, "the worst failure" of his mandate.

The third opposition Parti Québécois (PQ) notes that despite a

modern reality of Quebec, in that large numbers of immigrants, whose mother languages are neither French nor English, are learning French and living in several languages. Their children and grandchildren often speak three languages or more fluently.

"We are deeply troubled about the changes made to the Charter of the French Language by Bill 96, concerns shared by the Conseil du Patronat, the Collège des Médecins du Québec and the Barreau du Québec," said Mitch Brownstein, Mayor of the City of Côte Saint-Luc. "When you set aside the protections of the Quebec and Canadian human rights charters, you are signalling that the law is not reasonable. Members of many communities, Jews included, will find that though they are anglophone or use English as a second language and have lived here for decades, that the Bill defines them as ineligible to obtain

series of polls showing the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) winning by a comfortable margin, "nothing is decided."

At a press conference at the foot of the grand staircase of the parliament hall, surrounded by most members of his caucus, Leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon tried to dispel rumours that his party is flailing.

On the contrary, he insists people are motivated, membership cards are selling well, the party's financing is solid, the team of candidates is strong and the PQ will be on the attack with its ideas.

"The election is not over," said St-Pierre Plamondon as he denounced Legault's "day-to-day polling governance."

According to him, the CAQ is a party of resignation, which is "incompatible with the pride" of being a Quebecer.

The PQ has only seven members left and three are not planning to run: Véronique Hivon of Joliette, Sylvain Gaudreault of Jonquière and Lorraine Richard of Duplessis.

References: CBC and Canadian Press

## Quebec Liberals promise not to preempt court challenges with notwithstanding clause

Quebec Liberal leader Dominique Anglade cast herself as a candidate who can unite Quebecers of all backgrounds as her party presented its election platform Saturday, nearly five months ahead of the October vote.

While addressing supporters in Montreal, Anglade promised to turn the page on what she described as nearly four years of divisive government led by Premier François Legault and his Coalition Avenir Québec.

The CAQ, she said, only sees its supporters as real Quebecers and views diversity as a weakness and not a strength.

"We're all nationalists because we love Quebec, we love our nation," she said. "We can be nationalists and

federalists and that's the Liberal Party."

Speaking to reporters after her speech, Anglade accused the premier of deliberately dividing Quebecers as part of a strategy to distract residents from issues such as the rising cost of living.

"I think people are really noticing the level of arrogance and the level of division that this government is creating," she said.

But while Quebecers are not scheduled to go to the polls until Oct. 3, Anglade said she's confident her candidates will keep the platform in front of voters over the summer.

"We want to make sure that people have information when they're going to be voting, we don't want to have to tell people three days, or five days,

vital health and other services in English. That in no way protects French."

Côte Saint-Luc is a Jewish majority community. Brownstein indicates that many of his city's residents are elderly and did not go to school in Canada and are thus not "historic anglophones" and are blocked from services in English going forward.

B'nai Brith recently wrote to the Government of Quebec to alert them that Bill 96 will make it difficult for Jewish congregations to hire rabbis from out of Canada. Faced with a paucity of rabbis, Quebec synagogues are often obliged to recruit in the United States, the United Kingdom, or South Africa.

Bill 101 allowed children of rabbis from out of the country to obtain an exemption that allowed them to attend English language Jewish schools for three years. The exemption

was renewable. Under Bill 96 the exemption is limited to two years and is not renewable making Quebec far less attractive to top-notch rabbis.

Bill 96 combined with Bill 21 tells Jews that their civil rights are of little value in Quebec. However, the Emancipation Act of 1832, otherwise known as the Hart Act, provided full political rights to Jews, and by extension, all minorities in Quebec.

We are here today to say that no government can abrogate these rights, including by any future use of the Notwithstanding Clause.

"The Government did not respond to us", said Michal Mostyn. "How is the French language advanced by removing this accommodation? The philosophy of the law seems simply vindictive. Bill 96 combined with Bill 21 tells Jews that their civil rights are of little value in Quebec."



**Quebec Liberal Party Leader Dominique Anglade, center, speaks at their general council meeting in Montreal, June 11, 2022 (Canadian Press/Brian Hughes)**

seven days before the election what we're standing for," she said.

Anglade's platform includes a promise not to use the notwithstanding clause proactively to protect bills from court challenges.

Legault's government has preemptively used the notwithstanding clause to protect both a law banning certain public servants like police officers and teachers from wearing religious symbols, as well as its wide-ranging reform of the province's language law.

The Liberals said they would not renew the invocation of the notwithstanding clause in the religious symbols ban when it expires in 2024 and would remove it from the language law.

"We are not in favour of the notwithstanding clause," Anglade said. "Those bills have to go in front of the courts."

The removal of the notwithstanding clause is one of several changes the Liberals are proposing to the language reform bill. They are also promising to ensure people are able to access health care in their language; fund health and education in accordance with "real needs" instead of based on language, and eliminate a requirement that new immigrants only communicate with the government in French after six months in the province.

The party would maintain a requirement, however, that students at Quebec's English language junior

colleges take three additional French-language classes.

The platform also includes a number of promises aimed at helping Quebecers deal with inflation and the rising cost of living.

The Liberals said they would cut income taxes for Quebecers who make less than \$92,500 a year by 1.5 per cent if elected — a \$2 billion promise the party contended would save individual taxpayers up to \$1,000 a year.

A Liberal government would increase taxes on people who make more than \$300,000 a year.

The party is also promising to eliminate the provincial sales tax on products like shampoo, soap, toothpaste and electricity.

Recent polls have placed support for the Liberals below 20 per cent, well behind the CAQ which has regularly polled above 40 per cent.

The Liberals could also face new challenges from anglophone parties who say they feel betrayed by Anglade's stance on the language reform law. A Liberal amendment to the bill, which was ultimately not adopted, would have barred anglophone junior college students from taking classes on the French language to meet the new language requirement and the party did not come out against the bill until days before the final vote.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published June 11, 2022.



## From Page 3 Filipino Unity - Reality or a Dream

Association (FILGA) led the move, joined by the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS), and by the Filipino Canadian Association of West Island. They were the original core organizations that had pushed for the realization of unity. They were later joined by the Care Givers, the

Association of Oriental Cultures of Montreal composed of the Philippines, Japan, China, Vietnam, Korea, Laos and Cambodia. It had also received the recognition from the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal as the official voice of Filipinos to represent the community at the annual Mass of All



**Federation members at the Philippine Centennial Celebration**

sports groups: Basketball, Tennis and Chess Club. Two senior groups had amalgamated and formed into one as the United Filipino Seniors. The By Laws of the Federation was registered with the Institutions Financieres du Quebec as non-profit, and before long thereafter, the FFCAQ was officially

Nations held at the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral.

The Philippine Folk Art Society and the Kalinangan Dance Troupe were formed to promote the Filipino heritage, each performing separate roles. The Society handled the administrative part promoting other

debutants, a trademark that had given incentives to parents to have their own for their young girls turning 18.

At the celebration of the Philippine Centennial in 1998, the Philippine Folk Art Society and the Kalinangan Dance Troupe presented the tableau "Ako'y Pilipino" and "Bayan Ko," the maiden performance of the dance troupe.

The KDT participated at the XVII Festival Internacional del Mundo in Extremadura, Spain in August 1998 and during the visit of then President Fidel Ramos to Montreal in November 1997. Both performances were spectacular and delightful to watch.

In an effort to highlight the positive image of Filipinos, the Washington D.C. based Filipino Image Magazine presented Appreciation Awards to 20 outstanding Filipinos from the United States and Canada for exemplary work in the fields of medicine, dentistry, healthcare, sciences, education, entertainment and community leadership as Elite Circle of Leaders. The Canadian awardees were from Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Saskatchewan. In Canada, similar awards were given to men, women and teen achievers by the Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant of Toronto and by the International Professional Entertainment Network (IPEN) for services to the community and society at large.

Filipinos show unity and

passion in matters pertaining to patriotism, culture, religion, education, health care, family and social pride. Notwithstanding the flaws as a people, Filipinos are educated, decent, achievers, resilient, hardworkers and value-oriented.

The Philippine flag is the symbol of the country. The white color represents hope for equality; the blue color for peace, truth and justice; red color symbolizes patriotism and valor. The golden sun represents liberty and the three stars represent the three regions, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. With pride, let's cheer for our native land. **Long Live the Philippines, The Pearl of the Orient Seas! Viva las Filipinas, la perla de los mares de Oriente, La perle des mers d'Orient, Perlas ng Silanganan!**

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**Kalinangan Dance Troupe in their glorious years**

recognized by both federal and provincial governments and was granted operational grants for its projects. The Federation started to participate in multicultural activities by becoming a member of Folklore Canada International and partnered with the "Société interculturelle du patrimoine du Québec" (Quebec Intercultural Society), and the

areas of the Filipino culture, while the Kalinangan Dance Troupe had focused on folk dances and songs. The KDT eventually took over from the Federation the right to represent in areas related to culture.

In the heydays of the Society, the Philippine Folk Art was at the forefront in the promotion of the traditional cotillion for young

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## Toronto, Ont. Community News

By Tony A. San Juan  
OCT-Retired

### PIDC holds 2022-2024 officers induction

"I solemnly pledge that I will faithfully perform the duties of my position.....", with this oath 21 Executive Officers & Directors, and 31 members of the Council of Leaders took office as the newly elected governing leaders of the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) for the term of 2022-2024.

The induction was held on June 10, 2022, at FV Foods Banquet Hall in Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.

Philippine Consul General Orontes V. Castro administered the oath of office and was witnessed by more than 150 guests. The dignitaries in attendance were Members of Parliament Salma Zahid and Shaun Chen, and ex-Japanese Cultural Centre President Sid Ikeda and his wife. The media people present were Balita's Tess Cusipag, Filipino Bulletin's Carlos Unas & Nelson Galvez, LM Confidential's Joey Baking, Pinoy News' Joy Sarmiento, Filipino Web

Channel's Romy Marquez, Rose Ami's My Kapitbahay, freelance photographer Nick Cabrera, and OMNI TV's Theresa Redula.

In her welcome and inaugural address, President Agnes P. Miranda encouraged and challenged all the PIDC officers, directors, and members "to do more for the community in order to continue fostering utmost unity, cooperation, and success for the betterment of everyone". A. Miranda also pledged to do her best to guide and "lead the 22-year-old association to meet PIDC's established goals and mandate being the quintessential umbrella organization in the Filipino-Canadian community in Ontario." PhilConGen O.V. Castro heartily thanked the organizers and warmly congratulated the new officers. He reported that in other Canadian provinces and municipalities, the "Filipino Heritage Month is being declared and completing almost the

### Philippine Consulate General Toronto hosts Philippine Independence Day

With the theme: "Pagsuong Sa Hamon Ng Panibagong Bukas" (Rise Towards the Challenge of a New Beginning), the Philippine Consulate General -Toronto led the celebration of the 124th Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines. The "pagdiriwang sa Ika-24 na taong Kalayaan ng Filipinas" was hosted by the Philippine Consul General to Toronto, Hon. Orontes V. Castro and his Toronto consular staff on June 13, 2022, Monday, at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre, Toronto, Canada.

Amongst the Canadian and Filipino dignitaries in attendance were Toronto Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson, Toronto York Centre Councillor James Pasternak, Brampton City Councillor Rowena Santos, and Members of Provincial Parliament-elect Raymond Cho, Robin Martin, Michael Kerzner, Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen De Villa, TCDSB Director Brendan Browne, School Trustee Garry Tanuan, School Principal John Pasia, and Balita editor Tess Cusipag. Deputy Mayor M. Thompson, Councillor J. Pasternak, Councillor R. Santos and MPP-elect R. Cho gave their respective greetings. Reverend Monsignor Edgardo Pan delivered the invocation while Janet Lim emceed the 2-hour program and B's Sizzling Kitchen catered the

sumptuous "merienda" session.

PhilConGen O.V. Castro delivered his welcome address and also proudly cited the various accomplishments and contributions of Filipino-Canadians to Canadian society in several endeavours such as in healthcare, education, civic services, entrepreneurial business, and the economy in general. PCG Castro, in historic commemoration, officiated the symbolic cutting of the Philippine Flag-motif cake. Castro, likewise, mentioned the undertakings and engagements in promoting and pursuing initiatives contributing to greater diplomatic, educational, and economic relations between Ontario, Canada and the Philippines.

Heads and representatives of community and professional associations include the Bicol Community Association Inc., Brampton Filipino Seniors Club, Camarines Norte Association of Canada-Ontario, Federation of Filipino Canadians-Ontario, Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan, Filipino Centre Toronto, Filipino Heritage Council of Canada, FV Foods, Kababaihang Rizalista, Knights of Rizal-Canada Region, Philippine Artists Group, Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation, Philippine Independence Day Council, Philippine Legacy and Cultural Alliance, Philippine Teachers



Philippine Independence Day Council President Agnes Pasaporte Miranda

proclamation loop". He invited the attendees to participate in celebrating R.P. Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month events in June across the province.

Among the PIDC Officers inducted were: Agnes P. Miranda, President; Tom Tan, EVP; Ben Corpuz, Ext.Vice-president; Gene Pardo, Int. Vice-president; Ramon Estaris,

Association of Canada, Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association, and World Financial Group.

Opening the dance floor, ConGen O. Castro gamely led and engaged the excited guests in dancing

Proj.Vice-president; Rory Elefano, Treasurer; Chyrell Ronquillo, Secretary; Danny Orbillo & B.K. Jimenez, PRO, Helen Lao & Genoveva Jubilo, Bus. Mgrs.; Melinda Manlapaz, Auditor; Rose Cruz & Mark Pelayo, Liaison Ofcrs.; Leonor Abad, Asst. Treasurer; Rommel Lumbao, Asst.Sec.; and Board Directors

See Page 9 PIDC Induction

and the afternoon festive merriment. It was definitely a memorable and meaningful reception, celebrating the major milestone in Philippine history "at ng ating mahal na Inang Bayan". Mabuhay ang Araw ng Kalayaan!



Symbolic Cutting of the "124th Philippine Independence Day Cake" L-R: Councillor R. Santos, MPP R. Cho, ConGen O. Castro, Dr. Eileen De Villa, Dep. Mayor M. Thompson, and Councillor J. Pasternak. (Photos by B. K. Jimenez)



# PIDC kick starts Filipino Heritage Month at the park

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

The Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) lifts off the celebration of "Filipino Heritage Month" in Canada with a great Salu-Salo-Picnic gathering at Earl Bales Park, North York. Formed in 1997, PIDC is a registered non-profit, and volunteer-run umbrella organization of several Filipino-Canadian cultural, social, professional, and community associations in Ontario. Its main mission is to spearhead the commemoration of the Philippine

initiatives and activities for 2022. Amongst which are the Independence Day Picnic at the Park, the Officers' Induction, the "Mabuhay Philippines Festival" event at Nathan Phillips Square, the "Miss and Mrs. PIDC Philippines" pageant, MPF Gala Night, and the 2nd National Songwriting Competition, and fundraisers for the PIDC relief assistance fund.

The "picnic-at-the-park" was held on June 4, 2022, Saturday at Earl Bales Park, North York. Attended by more than 300 picnickers, the event



**MP Ya'ara Saks (3rd left) with PIDC Prexy Agnes Miranda (4th) and PIDC Officers.** Independence Day and to endeavor "to foster unity within the Filipino-Canadian community by showcasing Philippine heritage and culture to mainstream society".

Solidly headed by Agnes Miranda as its President, PIDC is gearing up several community

included a wreath-laying at the monument of national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, a sumptuous "salu-salo" potluck lunch, cultural and musical presentations, a men and women volleyball tournament, and a parade at the park participated by Filipino-Canadian organizations,

From Page 8 PIDC Induction

Aimee Maravilla, Ophelia Santiago, Sonia Balinas, Vilma Tahsin and Pia Alfonso. The members of the Council of Leaders are Suzy Llanera, Ted Dayno, Al Tupe, Roger Tarca, Paulina Corpuz, Pedro Carpio, Anne Anders, Anita Diaz, Aris Elefano, Arnel Vicente, Joseph Guiyab, Clyde Pacis, Conida Halley, Donna Estaris, Doris Dayno, Elizabeth Leggett, Imie Belanger, Imee Binay-Espiritu, Jacqueline Tayag, Jeff Mesina, Josephine Halley, Jun Villaruz, Marlene

Lucas, Meriel Lumbao, Mike Aprieto, Myrna Palmer, Nanding Ticzon, Roy Start, Ronnie Gray, Salome Mader, and Zeny Zagala. The PIDC advisers are Norma Carpio, Minda Neri, and Karen Binaday.

At the event, PIDC also celebrated International Women's Month-Part II and awarded "Medallions and Certificates of Recognition" to outstanding women in the community "for their progressive professional and personal successes in their respective



**Filipino-Canadians in Philippine Cultural Regalia with MP Salma Zahid (2nd right)**

The PIDC event organizing committee was fully guided and supported by the PIDC Board of Directors and Executive Officers and other volunteers. It is composed of Vice-President Ben Corpuz as chairman and Treasurer Rory Elefano as co-chair. NYPA's "big three", Vilma Tahsin, Roger Tarca, and Bob San Juan gamely organized and supervised the PIDC volleyball tournament with prizes generously donated by the World Financial Group (WFG). The whole day fest was aptly hosted and coordinated by Danny Orbillo, Chyrell Samson-Ronquillo, and Stephanie Artuz.

The dignitaries who graced the whole-day activity were Members of Parliament Salma Zahid, Shaun Chen, Yaara Saks, Jean Yip, MPP Doly Begum, UPF-Canada President Dr. Moonshik Kim, TCDSB Trustee Garry

Tanuan, Ajax Councillor Lisa Bower, OMNI TV Journalist- Reporter Theresa Redula, and community leaders Paul Saguil and Veronica Javier.

Among the participating organizations were: Northumberland Multicultural Dance Troupe, CNAC-O, Fun Philippines team, Kababayan Group, Filipino Construction Professionals-Ontario, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Rizal- Canada Region, Mark Angel Media Productions-The Aegis, PTAC, RNAO, SMDI, World Financial Group, and other social entities. It was certainly a fun day of "kumustahan", "kainan", "kantiyawan", "kodakan", cultural dances, musical performances, group dancing, individual dance skills demonstration, fellowship, and recognition awards.

careers, work, family and community engagements". Among the more than 55 recipients were Rose Ami, Aurora Cajucom, Belinda Corpuz, Jackie Cristini, Rachelle Cruz, Cora Dela Cruz, Vivienne Dela Cruz, Josie De Leon, Li Eron, Rosary Escano, Maria Geroche, Elizabeth Leggett, Martha Joy Lim, Mariel Lumbao, Bianca Manlapaz, Marilyn Tan Miranda, Theresa Orbillo, Felisa Palumbarit, Estela Pardo, Bea Santiago, Fermer Santos, Michele Serrano, Josie Tait, Sherry Lacson Tan,

and Kim Villafuerte. The prizes were donated by the World Financial Group (WFG). The program was aptly hosted by Danny Orbillo who also gamely serenaded the PIDC beauty pageant candidates with a medley of love songs. Prexy Agnes P. Miranda was superbly assisted by Suzy Llanera, Melinda Manlapaz, Gene Pardo, Ben Corpuz, B. K. Jimenez, and other senior PIDC officers. The occasion was distinctively a memorable evening of fantastic food, friendship, fun, and fellowship.

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## Filipino Language Students



Clara Aubin and Marianne Metivier took a 45-hour course in beginner level in Filipino in 2021. They said they plan to continue before their visit to the Philippines.




Rachelle Awakim and Robin Hunter studied two levels of Filipino language course before the Covid pandemic.




Richryan Sabroso, 9 year-old student in the 30-hour Introductory course for young learners, March 27-June 12, 2022.






*To all my friends, and to the entire Canadian Filipino community, I wish you all a wonderful celebration of Filipino Heritage Month in Canada.*

**Mabuhay!**



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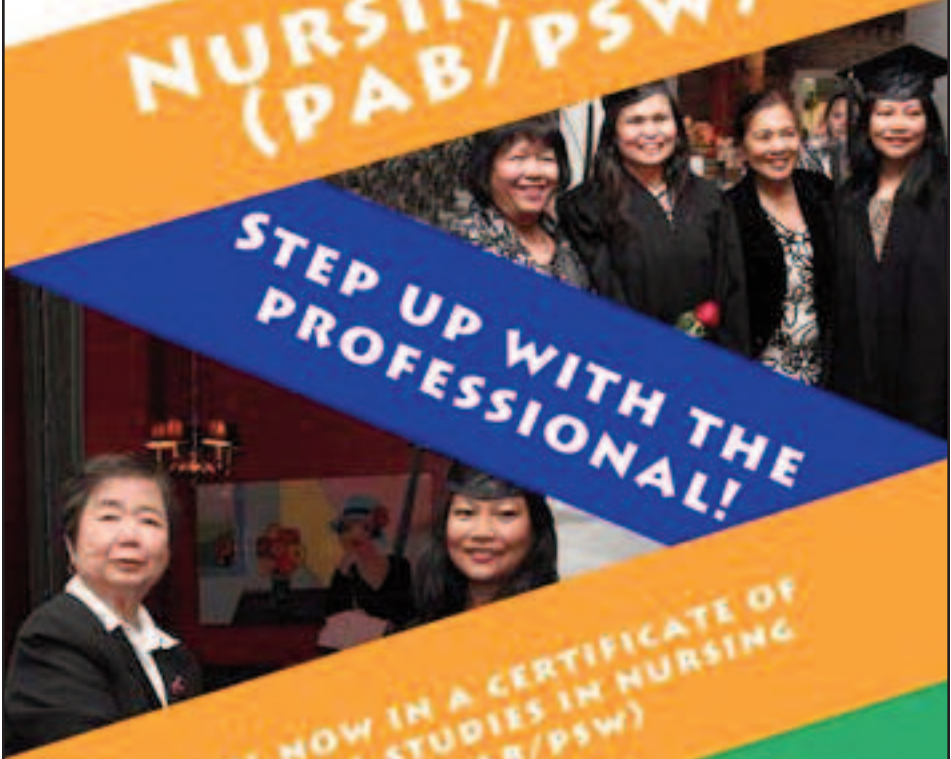
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### Easy, tasty dinners that need few ingredients



**Beef Satay Skewers**

#### INGREDIENTS:

600 grams beef rump steak cut into 2.5 cm cubes  
250 mL bottled satay sauce  
1 tbs oil  
450 g packet jasmine 2 1/2 minute jasmine rice  
350g bag Asian salad with soy sesame salad dressing and crunchy noodles

#### INSTRUCTIONS

##### Step 1:

Place beef in a bowl. Add 1/3 cup satay sauce. Stir to coat. Thread beef onto 8 skewers.

##### Step 2

### FFCAQ develops special programs for Filipino-Canadian Seniors

We are pleased to announce that the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) provides social programs from Filipino-Canadian Senior Citizens in Quebec through the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP).

The programs for Seniors includes (a) Computer Course; (b) Essentrics (Physical Fitness Socialization for Seniors); and (c) Line dancing/socialization.

The Computer Course starts on May 26, 2022 every Thursday at 5:30PM to 7:30PM. The Essentrics (Physical Fitness Socialization for Seniors) started in March 2022 until May 2022 and will resume by the end of Fall 2022 until February 2023. Finally, the line dancing/socialization for seniors will happen in June 2022.

The NHSP is being managed by a volunteer committee in our association with the help of workshop facilitators. Every session of the program is being observed and recorded by at least one volunteer. The program will continue to take effect throughout the summer season to keep seniors active. The program started on March 1, 2022 and will end on February 28, 2023.

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) is a federal grants and contributions program. It provides funding for projects that makes a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities.

These programs fulfill FFCAQ's mission is to provide our community with activities, programs and services that are of benefit culturally, physically and socially taking into consideration the organization's means and capabilities.

### Renee Salud tapestry Fashion Show comes back to Montreal

We are pleased to announce that Starlink Production with the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) will host the Tapestry 2 by Renee Salud at Hilton arden Inn Montreal Midtown on August 1, 2022.

Tapestry 2 is a grand fashion show featuring Philippine Fashion and textiles. It is a celebration of the rich culture of the Philippines and the best in neo-ethnic fashions by the Philippine Fashion Ambassador of the World, Renée Salud.

The Fashion Show will also be a cultural show featuring Philippine Music and Art.

Seats are divided into two sections: VIP and General Admission. VIP donation tickets will be sold at 150 dollars and 75 dollars for general admission. Cocktails will be served at 6:00PM to 7:00PM and the actual show will be at 7:00PM.

The organization is hereby soliciting support for this exciting endeavor. This event will help promote products made in the Philippines as well as help boost Philippine tourism. Tapestry 2 is the sequel from the Philippine Tapestry Neo-ethnic Cultural Show held in August 2017.

Part of the proceeds from the show will be donated to FFCAQ's projects like Pinoy Food drive, New Horizons Senior Program (NHSP) and the like.

For ticket reservations, advertisements, sponsorships and other inquiries, please contact FFCAQ thru telephone number: (514) 886-0092 and email address: infoffca.com.

Heat oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Cook skewers, turning, for 6 to 7 minutes for medium, or until browned and cooked to your liking.

#### Step 3

Meanwhile, heat rice following packet directions. Place remaining sauce in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 to 5 minutes or until heated through.

#### Step 4

Place remaining salad ingredients, including dressing and noodles, in a large bowl. Toss to coat. Divide salad and rice among serving plates. Top with skewers and drizzle with sauce. Serve.



**Blackened Salmon**

This Blackened Salmon recipe is seasoned with bold spices. It makes a delicious dinner, in just 15 minutes! The mix of crispy and tender textures is divine, perfect for a quick and delicious weeknight dinner.

#### INGREDIENTS:

3 tablespoons canola or light olive oil  
1 teaspoon fine sea salt or kosher salt  
2-3 tablespoons Homemade Blackened Seasoning or store bought

4 6-ounce salmon fillets, skin on, bones removed  
4 sprigs fresh thyme leaves only  
1 teaspoon fresh oregano leaves  
1 lemon zest & juice

#### Homemade blackening spices:

Paprika, salt, garlic powder, onion powder, cayenne, thyme, and oregano. Brown Sugar.

Butter. Helps the spices stick to the salmon pieces and critical to the blackening technique.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat the oil (to smoking) in a cast iron or similar skillet set over medium heat. While the oil heats, sprinkle the flesh side of the fillets with salt. Spread the Blackened Seasoning on a plate and press the flesh-side of the salmon into the seasoning. The salmon should have a heavy coating of seasoning. When the skillet and oil are ready, remove the skillet from the heat. Press the salmon fillets, one-at-a-time (flesh side down) into the oil in the skillet. Set the skillet back over medium heat and cook about 2-3 minutes or until the salmon is blackened but not burned. Turn the salmon fillets over and continue cooking (skin side down) until the skin is crispy, 4-6 minutes. Transfer the fillets to a serving platter, sprinkle with lemon zest and juice and serve immediately. Enjoy!

**Cooking is like painting or writing a song....**

Starlink Production in cooperation with Presents FFCAQ

*Philippine*

# Tapestry 2

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By: Renee Salud

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Part of the proceeds will be donated to the various projects of FFCAQ.





## Social Tidbits

# Montreal Community News

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

It's party time, it's barbecue time, it's travel time! Dare I say things are getting back to 'normal' (whatever 'normal' means)? It is tempting to hope for brighter things to come. While masks are no longer required in most indoor spaces including public transit across the province, they are still required in health care facilities. The mandatory mask mandate, implemented since July 2020, was lifted May 14, 2022, Quebec being the last province to do so. Some experts remain convinced that masks should stay and some continue to wear them. What do you think is right for you? Regardless, we are ready for summer! And a summer of breathing fresh air, a unanimous sentiment, I would think!

Let's leave the mask debate for others and let's talk of parties! The first one I attended after the pandemic was that given by Sir Julius Abad to celebrate his and wife Luz's 49th wedding anniversary (wow!) and also their birthdays in the last week of May. This double celebration was held at the Mandarin Chinese restaurant on Newman, LaSalle where good food and good wine defined the evening. Towards the end, many took pictures and together with the well wishes of good friends, all of us went away with beautiful memories of the night.

On the 30th of May 2022, Sir James de la Paz and wife Lady Rosemary invited their friends to a dinner party held at Chez Papa's restaurant on Victoria Avenue, Montreal. Everyone was asking each other what the dinner was for. Later on, Sir James introduced Mr. Mann Nacario, a campaign manager of Brampton, Ontario Mayor Patrick Brown, who is running for the leadership of the Conservative Party of

Canada. If and when he wins, he promises to review and correct the lapses and speed up the processing of Filipino Canadian healthcare workers and support workers to become permanent residents. He also vowed to support family reunification. The restaurant was full to capacity. While waiting for Mayor Brown to arrive, I initiated an impromptu program by asking Sir Julius Abad to render a vocal solo. He sang 'My Way.' Then by popular demand, he was requested to do an encore. This time he sang 'My Love Will See You Through.' This was followed by Sir James' signature rendition of Elvis Presley's rock and roll song. What can I say! Sir James' style can never be replicated! Sir Dario Boco followed with his 'Bikini in Black' song which he demonstrated with his own suggestive interpretation. Next was Sir Felix de Luna's turn, which was interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Brown (coming off from another campaign event in Laval). Mr. Mann Nacario did well in assisting Sir James de la Paz to manage the party.

Hurray to the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM), the first association ever to hold an event after the pandemic. It was the launching of the Filipino Heritage Month at Mackenzie King Park on June 5, 2022. The area near Dr. José Rizal's bust was transformed into an ambiance of fiesta-like proportion. This was possible with the work of FHSM VP Sir Alberto Abiera, Ricardo Ribaya, Sir Fred Erquiza and Sir James Menzie. Bunting hung around the place, enclosing it with the FHSM logo that formed the backdrop of the podium. The lovely hosts Editha Fedalizo and Jeannette Perignon worked well as a team and got the program going. The

flag bearers Sir Gerry Danzil, Sir Sheldon Cohen, and Sir Stephane Morin did the Parade of Colors. Once the flags were placed, the Panday Tinig with Paul Imperial conducting and Editha Fedalizo on the piano performed the Filipino and Canadian anthems.

Members of the Ati-Atihan organization of Montreal gave a cultural dance number with their usual mesmerizing music. You should have seen their bright costumes with multicoloured shells sewn into their vests. This musical entertainment was followed by personal greetings from the Knights of Rizal Sir Dario Boco, Sir James de la Paz, Sir Gerry Danzil, Sir Rey Balansi and Sir Felix de Luna.

Invited dignitaries who greeted the launching of the heritage month were: Marvin Rotrand (National Director, B'nai Brith Canada), Sameer Zuberi (MP Pierrefonds-Dollard), Gracia Kasoki Katahwa (Mayor of CDN-NDG), Stephanie Valenzuela (Councillor, Darlington), and Frank Baylis (former MP, Pierrefonds-Dollard) of Baylis Medical. Lunch from Pansitan was served. The Panday Tinig continued serenading the crowd. Michael Devantes of TV Pinoy dropped by to take pictures. It was great to meet Grace Ocampo, President of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ). All wished the FHSM well and are looking forward to more activities to come.

Hurray to the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) 59th Anniversary on June 11, 2022! This was held at the Radisson Hotel Montreal Airport on Cote-de-Liesse. Their theme was "Sa Ikau-unlad Ng Bayan, Disiplina Ang Kalayaan." Preceding the anniversary was the morning flag-raising ceremony in front of the FAMAS building on Van Horne Avenue, Montréal. Miss Mercy Sia (FAMAS VP Internal) welcomed the participants. This was followed by the prayer offering of Ms. Alona Amano (Director, Outreach Services). The program highlights were the Pambansang Awit by Panday Tinig and the Panunumpa Ng Watawat by the Heritage class. Guests who greeted the FAMAS audience were Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, MP Anthony Housefather, National Director of B'nai

Brith Marvin Rotrand, and Mr. Fernandes III representing Ambassador Rodolfo Robles. Cynthia Pura-Pacheo and Alona Amano were the co-hosts for the evening. Acknowledgment was performed by Mr. Romeo Remigio, FAMAS President 2021-2023. Former FAMAS President Sir Alberto Abiera gave the closing remarks.

Among the prominent guests were the two counsellors who hold the highest torches in Filipinos' hearts – Councillors Stephanie Valenzuela of Darlington and Sonny Moroz of Snowdon. FAMAS members worked cooperatively to make the party an event to remember. If you didn't attend the event, you missed the alluring display of Filipiniana formals worn by the FAMAS ladies. What a sight to behold the colorful attires and the glitters sewn in everyone's outfit. And thanks to Romy Remigio, Mercy Sia and Dante Tabamo for the invite.

Marvin Rotrand, the longest serving councillor who represented the Snowdon district for 39 years, is flourishing as the new National Director of the B'nai Brith's League of Human Rights. He advocates fighting antisemitism and other forms of hatred towards minorities such as the Filipinos. On the other fence, MP Anthony Housefather, also close to the Filipino community, has commented on Bill 96 which was adopted last month to strengthen Quebec's language laws. His position is that French can still flourish while respecting the rights of the English-speaking community. He sent a letter of concern to Marlene Jennings, President of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN).

In closing, allow me to offer Isaiah 41:13, "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the One who helps you.'" Until the next issue! God bless.

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**Souvenir photo of the Eucharistic Celebration with one of the officiating priests, Father N. Sengson at the St. Joseph's Oratory, June 17, 2022 (Facebook post of Amy Manon-og)**

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# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Liza Soberano looks forward to explore making music



**Liza Soberano**

Actress Liza Soberano said Monday that she is looking forward to making music, an untapped aspect of her career, after signing with James Reid's record label Careless Music.

Soberano told reporters that throughout her career she has not explored music even though it was something that she enjoys doing.

"I didn't take music too seriously because nobody told me that I could sing. Nobody told me that I should be a singer and it was just being an actress. And I never took any singing lessons so I never knew that I had it in me either," Soberano said in an interview.

"It was something that I always had fun doing, it was always like playtime for me, it didn't feel like work. So when I started talking with them, I told them that I wanted to get into music for fun still because I don't want it to be the main aspect of my career. I still want to be (mainly) an actress," she added.

In a short amount of time, the actress said she had fun working with

the artists of Careless Music.

"I'm just excited about all the things that we'll be able to achieve in the short amount of time that I've been working with them. They were already able to like get me three steps closer to where I wanna be in my career. I know that they're really listening to me and that I'm important to them and it's exciting to know that I have a family and a support system that is willing to push my dreams even though it's not necessarily what they envisioned in their minds," Soberano said.

"What's great about them is we kinda see eye to eye, like what I want is also what they wanted me to be so that's the most exciting part. I'm just excited to be working with a set of cool young creatives. I always say that because everyone on their team is like 30 and below and it's nice to be working with people of the same age range as me because we all learn from each other. We grow together and it's just always a fun time," she added.

Soberano has yet to explore what genre she wants to pursue but

she is certain that she wants to share her personal experiences through her music.

"I want to get into pop but who knows maybe there's another genre that's better suited to my voice. I don't know yet because I'm not music-savvy. So, I'm trying to learn a lot more," she said.

"I wanna be able to do music to be able to express my personal experiences in life, to showcase my personality more on a personal level."

Soberano made headlines in May when her former talent manager, Ogie Diaz, revealed that the actress is now managed by Reid, who is part of the US-based Transparent Arts group championing Asian-American talents.

Since her management switch went public, Soberano became more open about her decision to "take the first leap" to jumpstart a potential career in the United States.

Asked what she would advise to fellow Asian talents who aspire to make it big in the US, she answered, "I would say to just go for it." ■

### What Nadine Lustre looks forward to for the rest of 2022



**Nadine Lustre**

As 2022 nears its midyear mark, actress Nadine Lustre shared Monday what she looks forward to doing for the rest of the year.

Lustre said that she is still not certain yet as she has a lot on her plate.

"Honestly, this year, I feel like I'm walking in the dark just because there's so much going on with my life personally, with my health, business, love life also, where I am, career," Lustre told reporters.

"(There are) so many things going on, so it's really hard to kind of focus on one thing. I'm the kind of person kasi who just lets everything happen, just letting the year unfold to me," she added.

The actress added that she would just go with the flow.

"I'm not really focusing on one event na I want to focus on kasi at the end of the year I'm gonna look at my year and be like, Oh these are the moments I enjoyed, these are the events that I enjoyed. It's not just one event," she said.

"I always like to look at the bigger picture. I'm always stepping back and looking at it because I'm just that kind of person, I guess."

At the start of 2022, Lustre was busy doing relief operations for Typhoon Odette victims with her boyfriend Christophe Bariou.

Lustre, 28, was also among the visible celebrity supporters of Vice President Leni Robredo and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, twice performing at their rallies and starring in a meme-themed video endorsement backing the vice president.

She also made her movie comeback with Yam Laranas' suspense drama "Greed."



# Angel Locsin urges disheartened follower: 'Ituloy ang malasakit sa bayan, kapwa'



Angel Locsin



shawyville @therealangellocsin umiyak ka rin ba katulad namin? 🥺💕

14h 9 likes Reply See translation

Hide replies



therealangellocsin @shawyville malungkot but taas noo 🥺 Ituloy natin ang nabuong malasakit sa bayan at sa kapwa 🥰 proud to have fought alongside you 💕

13h 36 likes Reply See translation



shawyville @shawyville kahapon..hirap magtrabaho...hirap ngumiti, hiram tanggapin...💕

13h 7 likes Reply See translation

Angel Locsin encouraged a fellow supporter of her presidential bet to continue being compassionate despite the election results.

The actress had an exchange with one @shawyville who is a supporter of presidential candidate Vice President Leni Robredo, via Locsin's Instagram page yesterday, May 11. While there were no mentions about the candidate, the netizen was apparently pertaining to Robredo trailing behind Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. in the presidential race.

"Umiyak ka rin ba katulad namin?" the netizen asked. (Did you also cry like us?)

"Malungkot but taas noo. Ituloy natin ang nabuong malasakit sa bayan at sa kapwa.

Proud to have fought alongside you," Locsin replied.

("[I am] sad but proud. Let us continue the compassion that we built towards our country and fellowmen. Proud to have fought alongside you.)

The netizen stated that it was hard for her to smile and work at the same time, as she is still processing what is happening. Locsin then reminded her not to be disheartened and to continue whenever she is ready.

"Naiintindihan ko. Pero kailangan bumangon kundi mapupunta lang lahat ng mga sacrifices and efforts natin sa wala, 'di ba?" Locsin said.

(I understand but you have to lift yourself up or else our sacrifices and efforts will be for nothing, right?) ■

## Dimples Romana invited anew as juror at Emmys



Dimples Romana

Actress Dimples Romana is "honored" and "grateful" to sit as juror for the 50th International Emmy Awards.

She made this known to fans via a social media post.

"Magandang umaga. Starting this amazing week with a heart full of gratitude as I share with you one of the many surprise blessings I received these past months," she wrote on Instagram.

"And now finally I can officially share my joy with you."

She is ecstatic about her participation in the prestigious awards.

"I'm super kilig," she said.

She then thanked the International Academy of Television

Arts & Sciences for allowing her a "once in a lifetime experience."

According to her, it truly inspired her thespian heart.

"Contributing in selecting the BEST TELEVISION programming from around the WORLD was both my honor and pleasure. #iemmys," she said.

"Maraming Maraming Salamat po muli! And I can't wait to join in on the festivities in New York City come November. Blessings upon blessings."

.It is the second time for Dimples.

In 2020, she was invited to be a juror by the same award-giving body. ■



## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

# Want to be the next big content creator? Here are 5 tips and tricks to succeed on YouTube



NextUp Philippines Webinar Series

If you want to be a successful YouTube content creator, you must understand how the video streaming platform works. This is what aspiring content creators and vloggers learned in the recent NextUp Philippines Webinar Series, a collaboration between Smart Communications Inc. and YouTube.

The three-part event—hosted by content creator and talent manager Jako De Leon—gathered speakers composed of YouTube experts, NextUp program alumni, and industry luminaries to impart lessons and tips on community engagement, brand collaboration, content optimization and production to budding Filipino content creators.

Among the speakers who helped content creators maximize YouTube was Andrea Romualdez, Strategic Partner Manager from YouTube's Creator and Artist Development team, who shared these five helpful tips:

### Think like a new viewer

YouTube's homepage—a top source of traffic to videos—ranks videos by performance and personalization. This means good content can easily be presented to users coming to the homepage, and your video can be among those.

"Make the thumbnail clear and easy to read on desktop and mobile, and have a consistent title and thumbnail style," says Andrea. Showing the video's topic sets a clear expectation of what viewers will be in for, further enticing them to click on your video no matter where they see it.

### Upload consistently

Arguably, the best way to maintain traffic to your videos is to train your audience to expect a routine of your content uploads, so that they can build anticipation on a specific day of the week or time of the day.

"Build consistency and a routine for your viewers so that they know when to come back to your channel," says Andrea. This is an easy way to sustain their interest over time. "It's good to upload frequently, but consistency is better than frequency."

### Create a series

Other than the Homepage, another important source of traffic on YouTube are suggested videos which appear on the sidebar of a video that's currently playing, enticing the viewer to keep watching.

One way to take advantage of this feature is to create a series of shorter videos, so that the viewer will always be watching your videos. This is because the suggested videos feature tends to offer videos from the same creator. As long as you have a lot of content on your channel, both the suggested videos and the 'up next' feature will likely play more of

your content as the viewer keeps watching.

### End with a call-to-action to watch more

One simple way you can continue to direct traffic to your content is to end your videos with a call to action to watch more from your channel.

A call-to-action is a quick and easy reminder for the viewer that there is more content on your channel, especially if it's of the same or similar topic as the video they're currently watching. It's a bit of a subconscious sign for them to actually keep going because there's more to discover.

### Use playlists and end screens

This extra step can go a long way, especially if you have a lot of content—take the time to fully use YouTube's extra features to direct your viewers to your videos and keep them watching.

Create playlists of similar videos to ensure that your viewers watch as much of your content as possible, especially if there's something to learn thoroughly.

For your individual videos, utilize the end screen feature to present more videos that you think the viewer should watch. It can also be other videos of a similar topic, or a new video you're trying to promote—it's all up to you, and giving them options will go a long way to retaining their interest.

The NextUp Philippines Webinar Series is a collaboration between Smart and YouTube to provide growth opportunities for Filipinos to discover and cultivate their passions. ■

# John Lloyd Cruz, son Elias viral on TikTok



John Lloyd Cruz with his son Elias Modesto

Actress KC Concepcion couldn't have been awhile since fans saw John Lloyd Cruz together with his son Elias Modesto.

A clip of both father and son having a laugh on the set of the Kapuso sitcom, "Happy ToGetHer" as posted on TikTok serves as proof as to how much fans are eager to see them together.

Note that as of writing it has already earned more than 500,000 views.

In it, John Lloyd is seen

making good effort to make his son burst into giggles.

It warmed the hearts of netizens.

Some of the comments:

"Ang cute nilang mag-ama!"

"Iba pdn ung pakiramdam na Tatay mo talaga kasama nya"

"we want more of this!!"

"Ang galing nilang magpalaki ng bata kahit hiwalay sila"

"Kulit ni daddy!!!"



# Jane de Leon advocates health and wellness



**Jane de Leon**

Amid the global health crisis, Filipinos have seen the courage and strength of frontline workers—our doctors, nurses, grocery cashiers, public transportation drivers, and many more.

We also saw people stepping up for others, especially their families, friends, or those vulnerable, immunocompromised loved ones safe from COVID-19. And yes, no matter how small our actions are, it reflects the heroes in all of us.

To honor the unsung heroes in every Filipino, Santé, a premier natural and organic health and wellness product and services provider, welcomes, today, Jane De Leon as the newest ambassador for Santé Barley and Daily-C.

“More than all the characters that Jane De Leon portrays in her movies and teleseryes, we know that she is always kind and compassionate and uses her strength and influence to help others. And because it is our commitment to helping everyone live better lives, Jane perfectly embodies what Santé is all about. She represents the hardworking and dedicated Filipinos who have risen to become heroes of their families, especially amid these uncertain times,” said Joey Marcelo, chief executive officer of Santé.

However, unlike any other superheroes in television and

movies, everyday heroes need to strengthen their immune systems with the right supplements, good exercise, and diet to stay away from sicknesses, enabling them to live more and do more for their loved ones. As health is their primary source of power, this is where Santé Barley™ and Daily-C come in to help empower the revolution of the modern-day heroes in every Filipino.

Santé Barley™, the company’s flagship product, is made of barley grass gathered at a young age and turned into powder and capsule forms. It is composed of pure organic barley grass rich in vitamins and minerals that help to detoxify the body, lower bad cholesterol, aid digestive health, deliver a good number of antioxidants, assist wound healing, bone formation, and many more.

A glass or capsule of Santé Barley™ fortifies the body with Vitamin C, zinc, calcium, amino acids, magnesium, iron, B-vitamins, and carotenoids, which are essential to giving the immune system an extra boost. The healthy goodness of Santé Barley™ is certified organic by New Zealand’s renowned organic produce and products organization, BioGro.

Daily-C, on the other hand, is ascorbic acid neutralized with sodium. It has three variants, including Daily-C 500mg, Daily-C 750mg, and Daily-C Plus, sodium ascorbate fortified with zinc to provide an extra level of protection.

With a pH range of 7.0 to 8.0, all variants are gentler on the stomach and safe for daily consumption.

Vitamin C helps reinforce the immune system, decreases Vitamin C deficiency, and aids in the body’s iron absorption, collagen formation, and wound healing. The Daily-C variations come in vegetable capsules that make it ideal for those living the vegetarian lifestyle.

“Before we can become heroes for others, we need to ensure that we are strong and healthy. I have always considered health and wellness very important, especially now that we face a global health crisis. I am very grateful to be a part of the Santé family. As the new brand ambassador of Santé Barley™ and Daily-C, I hope that I can encourage more Filipinos to take care of their health so that they can take good care, even more, of their families and loved ones,” said De Leon.

Santé Barley™, Daily-C, and other Santé products are organic health and wellness products offered by Santé, known for developing a comprehensive selection of everyday barley-based products. They are designed to improve people’s quality of life to live more and do more.

Santé is one of the leading global manufacturers of certified barley grass grown and harvested from New Zealand. With its mission to help people live better lives, the company promotes, produces, and distributes premier natural health and wellness products and services. Today, Santé has expanded its offerings, including a fitness and rehabilitation center with Santé Fitness Lab, staying true to its thrust of promoting a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about Santé Barley™, Daily-C, and other Santé products, visit its website at [mysante.com](https://mysante.com) ■

## Bea Alonzo fulfills dream of owning apartment in Europe



**Bea Alonzo**

Bea Alonzo made one of her dreams turn into reality as she finally bought an apartment in Madrid, Spain, after spending days of apartment hunting in the city.

The actress treated fans to a glimpse of the interiors of the apartments she went to, through her YouTube channel yesterday, May 14. The vlog also marked a milestone for her as it is the 100th episode on her channel.

“It has always been my dream to own an apartment in Europe for my family. And finally, it happened!” she said. “After many years of hard work, and weighing things whether I should buy or not, I have decided to just take a leap and do it!”

Alonzo disclosed that she had been looking for an apartment since last year and chanced upon an article about having a golden visa in Spain. The said visa instantly grants residency permit but the actress

clarified that she will not become a Spanish citizen.

“Recently, nagpunta ako sa (I went to) Madrid and a lot of you have speculated that it was for work but it was actually not for work,” she stated. “It’s very personal and since you have seen me grow here sa YouTube, parang hindi na ko mahihyang i-share ito sa inyo (I feel like I am not shy anymore to share this with you) and I’m quite excited actually to inspire you even more.”

Alonzo stayed in the city for five days and was able to check six apartments. She stated that she had a hard time choosing between her two final choices, adding that even at her age, she usually considers her mom’s opinion before making decisions.

“My overall experience doon sa apartment hunting namin in Madrid is it was exciting but very tiring, only because we only had four days to do it. Para akong nag-tour sa different neighborhoods sa Madrid,” she added. “It’s a good thing. I have fallen in love more with it.”

(My overall experience in our apartment hunting in Madrid is that it was exciting but very tiring, only because we only had four days to do it. I feel like I toured different neighborhoods in Madrid.)

Alonzo flew to Europe last March which also marked her first trip there in about three years, returning after the COVID-19 pandemic. Alonzo was accompanied by her friends during the trip. ■



# The History and Blessings of Philippine Independence

## The Renaissance of the Filipino

By Gus Mercado



**Gus Mercado is a well-known civic and business leader from Dallas, Texas. He founded the Filipino Leaders Coalition of North Texas which organizes and sponsors the annual joint celebration of Philippine Independence Day in the region. He is a recipient of the Presidential BANAAG award for outstanding business leadership and exemplary stewardship of Filipinos in the U.S. He is married to Philippine Consul in Dallas, Hon. Ethel R. Mercado.**

June 12, 1998 marks a most important milestone in the history of the Philippines as the day the Republic was born. Every year since then, Filipinos all over the world take time to commemorate this significant event in their history -- the culmination of nearly four centuries of struggle for nationhood.

The Philippines, written in poetry as "the cradle of noble heroes", has a colorful and glorious history -- of wars won and lost, of struggles for independence against colonizers, of bravery and sacrifice. Since the 16th century, the Philippines had been a part of the Spanish Empire until June 12, 1898 when its more than 300-years reign in the Philippines came to an end. After a bloody war, the first Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the nation's independence in Kawit, Cavite. This was followed by 50 years of American occupation when the Philippines became a U.S. colony, the only true colony that the U.S. has ever had. Then came the Japanese invasion where Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with the Americans in defending the Philippine territory. Throughout the many centuries of foreign occupation, the flame of our national spirit



and yearning for independence has never died.

Through trials and tribulation, we Filipinos have preserved democracy and freedom in our country. Despite the long history of foreign subjugation, we have given our country a national identity as a proud and independent member of the family of nations. Out of diversity, we have fostered a cohesive and unified nation-

state.

We salute our many heroes, past and present, who have dedicated their lives to aspiring for the best and the noble, whatever cause or field of endeavor they had chosen to pursue.

Like our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, whose birthday we also mark this month, we applaud the numerous Filipinos who have made untold personal sacrifices for our country and for all of us who came after them.

From Lapulapu to Gabriela Silang, from Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Marcella Agoncillo and Apolinario Mabini to modern day heroes like Ninoy Aquino and our doctors and nurses in the frontlines during the pandemic, Filipino role models abound.

Rizal, the novelist, doctor, scientist, linguist, patriot and ultimately, martyr, has drawn the admiration of not just Filipinos, but people of other nations who recognize his genius and love of democracy as the marks of a true hero.

Rizal's classic novels -- *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* -- dramatized the pathetic lives of Filipinos under Spanish colonial rule and the abuses perpetrated against Filipinos by



their colonizers. Finally, his execution at what is now the Rizal Park, sparked the Philippine Revolution of 1896 that eventually led to independence.

What has resulted from these sacrifices for freedom and independence is nothing short of a renaissance for the Filipino people, especially those who have chosen to pursue their careers overseas. From authors to sports figures, workers to actors, doctors and nurses, to teachers and engineers, to government leaders and lay ministers, we the living heirs now enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy that our ancestors fought and died for. We cherish the examples set by our heroes, as beacons of inspiration and constant reminder that even in the face of formidable challenges and against all odds, yes, the Filipino can. The Filipino can overcome adversity. The Filipino can emerge triumphant, prosper and distinguish himself in his adopted land.

And those of us who have been blessed with a bountiful life abroad are paying back by keeping the Philippine economy afloat with our dollar remittances. Twelve million Filipinos living abroad send the equivalent of \$31 billion



to our families and relatives every year.

This heritage of nationhood, built painstakingly over time, is what makes us all Filipinos, regardless of where in the Philippines we come from, or where we are now, or what our occupation and status in life is. On this 124th year of our nationhood, therefore, we must rededicate ourselves to working for the good of our mother country and of all our people.

### Two Most Important Chapters in Philippine History

Among many chapters of Philippine history that were written in

the Filipino people is World War II where the Philippine nation lost a million lives including civilians and more than 200,000 Filipino and American soldiers fought side by side against the invaders, and gave their full measure of devotion to keep freedom alive. Thanks to the heroism of the Filipino soldiers who vowed that "never shall invaders trample thy sacred shores", the cause of freedom in the Philippines ultimately prevailed.

Unbeknownst to the younger generations, it was the heroism and sacrifices of these heroes that gave us free passage as immigrants into this



**On Oct. 20, 1944, MacArthur landed in Palo, Leyte to keep his promise 'I shall return' to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese.**

blood, two special chapters stand out in reminding all of us of the countless Filipino lives lost in their fight for freedom. The first is the Philippine Revolution which culminated in the 1898 Declaration of Independence, on the altar of brave men and women who lost their lives in the conflict.

The other indelible chapter in our history that memorialized the bravery of

country.

The hard-fought Philippine Independence and what it stood for, both in the revolution against Spain and in the bloody aftermath of WWII, should remain ingrained in our consciousness and in our hearts. May the spirit of our heroes dwell within us and in our children, now and forever more. Mabuhay ang ating Kalayaan! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

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## Retired Judge Luttig explains 'slow and methodical' speech during Jan. 6 hearing

By Debra Cassen Weiss, June 21/22

Retired Judge J. Michael Luttig has responded to social media speculation about his slow speaking style during testimony Thursday before the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot.

"I believed I had an obligation to the select committee and to the country, first to formulate ... then to measure ... and then ... to meter out ... every ... single ... word ... that I spoke ... , carefully ... exactly ... and ... deliberately, so that the words I spoke were pristine clear and would be heard, and therefore understood, as such," Luttig said in a June 18 Twitter thread.

Luttig, a conservative former judge on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond, Virginia, had testified that Jan. 6, 2021, was "a war for America's democracy" that was "irresponsibly instigated" by former President Donald Trump, his allies and supporters.

Luttig had advised then-Vice President Mike Pence that he didn't have the constitutional authority to reject the 2020 presidential election results.

An opinion column from the Washington Post described Luttig's testimony as "slow and methodical." There was speculation that Luttig was in poor health or a stroke survivor, according to the Focus.



**J. Michael Luttig, a retired federal judge who served as an adviser to Mike Pence, testifies before the Jan. 6 select committee on June 16. (Susan Walsh/AP)**

Joe Hagan, a writer for Vanity Fair, said in a June 16 Twitter thread Luttig "treats every line of his testimony like he's engraving it on a national monument. And frankly, he really is engraving it for history. And he seems to know it. ... He's speaking to history, not TV."

Hagan got it right, Luttig said on Twitter and in an interview with Politico's Playbook. Raw Story has coverage of Luttig's tweets.

Politico's Playbook posted an essay written by Luttig in which he reflects on the Capitol assault and Pence's brave stand.

"Jan. 6 was a war for America's democracy," Luttig wrote in the essay. "It was an immoral war instigated and prosecuted by Donald Trump and his political party allies and supporters. ... On Jan. 6, 2021, the vice president of the United States performed what was but his constitutional duty, but he did so in a moment when another might not have, saving our democracy from certain peril."

## Russian journalist's Nobel Peace Prize fetches record \$103.5 million at auction to aid Ukraine children

June 21 (Reuters) - Dmitry Muratov, the co-winner of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize and the editor of one of Russia's last major independent newspapers, auctioned off his Nobel medal for a record \$103.5 million to aid children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

All proceeds from the auction, which coincided with the World Refugee Day on Monday, will benefit UNICEF's humanitarian response for Ukraine's displaced children, Heritage Auctions, which conducted the sale in New York, said in a statement.

Muratov's Novaya Gazeta newspaper, fiercely critical of President Vladimir Putin and his government, suspended operations in Russia in March after warnings from the state over its coverage of the war in Ukraine.

Pressure against liberal Russian media outlets has been continuous under Putin, Russia's paramount leader since 1999, but it has mounted after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Muratov was attacked with red paint in A "This award is unlike any other auction offering to present," Heritage Auctions said in a statement before the sale.

"Mr. Muratov, with the full support of his staff at Novaya Gazeta, is allowing us to auction his medal not as a collectible but as an event that he hopes will positively impact the lives of



**Dmitry Muratov speaks during the auction of his 2021 Nobel Peace Prize medal by Heritage Auctions in New York City, New York, U.S., June 20, 2022. REUTERS/David 'Dee' Delgado**

millions of Ukrainian refugees."

Muratov, who co-founded Novaya Gazeta in 1991, won the 2021 the Nobel Peace Prize with Maria Ressa of the Philippines for what the Nobel Prize committee said were "their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace".

Muratov, who pledged to donate about \$500,000 of that prize money to charities, dedicated his Nobel to the six Novaya Gazeta journalists who have been murdered since 2000.

That list included the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a critic of Russia's war in Chechnya, who was killed in 2006 in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building.

## Happy Filipino Heritage Month! Joyeux mois du patrimoine philippin!

*Mabuhay!*

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PERSONNES DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ PHILIPPINE

# UNE JOYEUSE FÊTE DE L'INDÉPENDANCE ET UN BON MOIS DU PATRIMOINE PHILIPPIN !

DE LA PART DE VOS DÉPUTÉS FÉDÉRAUX LIBÉRAUX

WISHING EVERYONE FROM  
THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

## A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AND A HAPPY HERITAGE MONTH!

FROM YOUR FEDERAL LIBERAL MPs



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