

Media Release

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HSL ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT QUEZON HISTORY DAY ON AUGUST 3

Saranac Lake, NY (July 31, 2024) — Historic Saranac Lake announced a full schedule of activities for President Quezon History Day on Saturday, August 3, 2024. The day will celebrate the life and legacy of Manuel Luis Quezon, the first president of the Philippines, who came to Saranac Lake for his health. The event coincides with the 80th anniversary of President Quezon's death in Saranac Lake on August 1, 1944.

President Quezon History Day is hosted by Historic Saranac Lake in partnership with the Kalayaan 1521 Council, Inc., a non-profit organization that aims to promote and preserve Filipino culture and heritage.

From the 1880s onward, Saranac Lake was known as a world-renowned health resort, attracting people from all walks of life sick with tuberculosis. Tens of thousands of people from around the world came for the fresh air treatment pioneered by Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau. One of the most prominent health seekers of the time was President Quezon.

President Quezon History Day extends beyond commemorating the life of the first democratically elected president of the Philippines. The event will also celebrate Filipino culture, recognizing the contributions of vibrant Philippine communities throughout the North Country, New York State, and beyond.

"We are really excited to be building bridges to Filipino American neighbors," said Historic Saranac Lake's Executive Director Amy Catania. "This is a grassroots, group effort, working in partnership with local Filipino Americans and the Kalayaan 1521 Council, Inc. in Albany."

Sol Kapunan, Founding President of Kalayaan 1521 Council noted that, "among the affiliations the US have with other countries, the Philippine relationship is one of the lasting ones. The United States doesn't only have a good relationship with the Philippine Government, but it has a good relationship with the Filipino People in general as well. As we have seen, the Filipino Diaspora over North America has made considerable advancement over the years. However,

we are not only interested in gaining, because Filipinos know the importance of contribution, assimilation and partnership. In our current age, maintaining relationships and winning more allies matter; these are all possible if we do not lose track of the gains that our forefathers have paved for us. Hence, we look back at our past as we commemorate what the great President Manuel Luis Quezon has done for the Filipino Nation and the relationship that he has built between The Philippines and the United States of America."

"Now, as an organization created for the preservation of Philippine Culture, Kalayaan 1521 will always find ways to partner with organizations like Historic Saranac Lake that fosters collaboration and mutual growth. Hence, Kalayaan is here fully supporting the community's efforts to highlight our victories with the goal of showing the world that peace and cooperation is possible in this age and time."

The celebration will kick off at 11:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony at the Harrietstown Town Hall to welcome dignitaries and special guests, Consul General Senen T. Mangalile is guest speaker.

The U.S. National Anthem will be sung by Saranac Lake Filipino American Lisa Keegan. Members of the Panday Tinig Chorus from Montreal will sing the National Anthems of Canada and the Philippines. Dance performances will follow by KAõS Dance Collective from NY City and the Golden Maidens from Montreal.

A Street Fair will be held from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Main Street, in front of the Hotel Saranac. The Street Fair will feature Filipino food, vendors, and dance and music performances at Berkeley Green. Two dance groups, the Albany-Sinulog Dance Troupe and Funraisers of New York, will perform at the Berkeley Green bandshell in the afternoon. Music will be performed by Brown Sugar Band and the Wicked Indios. The Hotel Saranac will be serving special Filipino-inspired cuisine and drinks throughout the weekend. Visitors may take a photo with a model "Jeep-ney" created by Paul Fobare, Supervisor of Education at Federal Correctional Institution at Ray Brook and adults in custody working in the Education-Vocational Trades and Recreation Program.

Around the corner from the Street Fair, at Historic Saranac Lake's Saranac Laboratory Museum, visitors will view special exhibits about President Quezon. A video tour will be shown of Camp Massapequa, where President Quezon stayed and died. The museum will also present a recording of an online discussion about Filipino history by Luis Francia and Manuel Luis "Manolo" Casas Quezon III. The discussion and planning for the commemorative event is supported by a Vision Grant from Humanities NY.

Museum visitors can explore the exhibits with a special Exhibit Discovery Card. The first 75 visitors who complete Exhibit Discovery Card will receive a ticket for a complimentary beverage at the Hotel Saranac for the closing reception. The informal reception with light refreshments will begin at 5:00pm in the Great Hall.

GMA Pinoy TV is serving as media partner. Activities are free of charge or operating on a pay-what-you-wish basis.

About the Performers

KAōS Dance Collective, based in New York City, creates collaborative, interdisciplinary, and site-specific dance works by centering artists' individual voices and talents. Though they are a diverse group of artists, many of the collaborators in KAōS are Filipinx-American. Their pieces often are about their experiences as members of the Fil-Am diaspora, and they often use pre-colonial mythology as a thematic tool. The director, Nikaio Bulan Sahar Thomashow, is originally from Saranac Lake and is of Cebuano descent. The performance will consist of two pieces - one about our experiences as Filipinx-Americans and one that takes inspiration from mythology. The music will be composed by Nikaio Bulan Sahar Thomashow, and all movement will be made collaboratively.

Albany-SINULOG Dance Troupe is inspired from the SINULOG Festival of the Central and Southern Philippines, a Feast celebration in honor to Infant Jesus' Devotion every 3rd Sunday of January. "Sinulog" means current flow of water-like steps. It is a dance to worship the Infant Jesus. The troupe's costumes are inspired from the Indigenous people in the Philippines. The queen carries the image of Infant Jesus as they dance.

The Golden Maidens are talented dancers, united by their love for Filipino culture and their passion for captivating performances. The group consists of members of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal. Golden Maidens is a dedicated ensemble of passionate artists striving to preserve and showcase the beauty of Filipino culture. Through their captivating performances, they paint a vivid picture of the country's rich traditions, captivating audiences with every graceful movement.

The Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble was founded in 1985. It is a non profit & charitable organization, registered under the Canada Corporations Act. Its mission is to promote Filipino musical heritage, using their voices to support charitable projects. Panday Tinig has 4 awards received from Canada & the Philippines. The Panday Tinig is led by Paul Imperial, Music Director, and Edith Fedalizo, pianist.

About Guest Speaker Consul General Senen T. Mangalile

Consul General Senen T. Mangalile became the 19th Consul General of the Philippines in New York in January 2023. As Consul General, Mr. Mangalile is responsible for the promotion of commercial, economic, cultural and scientific relations between the Philippines and ten states in the US Northeast, and the protection of the interests of Filipino citizens living and working there.

Mr. Mangalile holds the rank of Chief of Mission or Ambassador at the Department of Foreign Affairs, which he joined in 1997 and where his most recent role was Assistant Secretary of the Office of Consular Affairs.

Abroad, he previously served at the Embassies of the Philippines in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Turkey, at the Philippine Mission to the International Maritime Organization, and at the Philippine Consulate General in Osaka, Japan.

Upon assuming office, Consul General Mangalile extended to community leaders in his jurisdiction a sincere offer of partnership so that together they can raise awareness of the huge contributions of the Filipino diaspora to the fabric of American society. He remains committed to this partnership and its mission.

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Additional images provided in media folder.

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